



AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday approved a protocol between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the field of youth and sports. The agreement provides for coordination and cooperation between the two sides in these fields and for exchanging delegations at all levels. The Ministry of Youth will, according to the agreement, extend technical assistance to the PNA to build the youth and sports-related infrastructure. The Cabinet also approved naming a new board of the Petra Development Council. It also approved the new regulations of mayors' transport allowances. A Royal Decree was issued Saturday ratifying a Cabinet decision approving a Jordanian-Greek maritime agreement. Jordan and Greece have agreed in October to provide each other with technical know-how.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة منشورة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

## 1 dead, 11 injured in Delhi blast

NEW DELHI (AFP) — One person was killed and 11 people were injured in two bomb explosions in the Indian capital Saturday, police and hospital officials said. A police spokesman said a bomb, hidden in a state-run bus, went off at about 5.15 p.m. (11.45 GMT) near Jahangirpuri, west of New Delhi, injuring seven people. Immediately afterwards another bomb went off in a jeep, just metres away from the first explosion site, he said, adding five people were seriously injured in the second attack. The bus was on its way to the neighbouring state of Haryana from the inter state bus terminal in Delhi, he said. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Fire brigade officials said eight fire tenders were rushed to the scene and police have cordoned off the area.

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## No Hebron deal without Israeli commitment to further moves — Arafat

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Saturday that Israel's refusal to commit to a timetable for completing its troop withdrawal in the West Bank has held up intensive U.S. efforts to reach agreement on Hebron.

"One of the principal obstacles is Israel's refusal to fix a timetable for an army redeployment in zones B and C," Mr. Arafat was quoted by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa as saying.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected on Friday this demand during a meeting of his cabinet, offering only to set a date for the first of these troop withdrawals.

Israeli and the Palestinian negotiators, meanwhile, resumed talks Saturday.

The Israeli delegation was led by General Shaul Mofaz, in charge of military planning.

The Palestinian delegation includes security chief Abdul Razak Al Yahya, the head of preventive security

## Clinton invites Arafat to U.S.

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has invited Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to visit the United States early in the New Year, a Palestinian official said on Saturday.

Mr. Clinton issued a similar invitation, which also set no precise date for a visit, to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week against the backdrop of intensive U.S. diplomatic efforts to clinch an Israeli-Palestinian deal on the West Bank town of Hebron.

"President Clinton sent a letter to President Arafat three days ago in which he invited him to visit Washington," said Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rdainah. "This is the first time that President Arafat has been invited for an official visit to Washington, on his own."

Mr. Rdainah told Reuters that Mr. Clinton wrote in the letter he would like Mr. Arafat to visit at the beginning of 1997.

An Israeli spokesman said on Tuesday that Mr. Clinton had invited Mr. Netanyahu to visit the United States "at the beginning of the New Year" to discuss developments in the Middle East.

on the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub, and lead negotiator Hassan Asfour.

The talks were being held at the Hotel Laromne in Jerusalem, but the two sides were still far apart when they resumed negotiations on Friday for the Sabbath.

Israeli government spokesman David Bar Ilan blamed the Palestinians for

not negotiating in good faith and making additional demands.

U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross met Mr. Arafat on Saturday in Gaza City and was expected to hold talks with Mr. Netanyahu later in the day.

"We are in fact close, but until one can conclude all the details, we don't have an agreement," Mr. Ross

spend all our life, like we did in Hebron, negotiating again and again every phase of the redeployment in the West Bank," said Nabil Shaath, planning and international cooperation minister for the Palestinian

(Continued on page 7)

## King and Queen return

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Saturday after a private visit to Europe.

They were received at the airport by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Princess Taghrid and Princess Basma. Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, the King's advisers and senior officials.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received upon their return home on Saturday by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad (Petra photo)

## Abul Ragheb, Lawzi to leave for Baghdad on Jan. 8

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi are tentatively scheduled to leave for Baghdad on Wednesday, two days later than originally planned, official sources said Saturday.

The officials said the delay was "technical" and affirmed that there were no snags in renewing Jordanian-Iraqi oil and trade agreements and that the two accords could be signed during the visit of the two ministers.

Mr. Abul Ragheb and Mr. Lawzi are now scheduled to leave for Baghdad on Jan. 8 instead of Jan. 6 as originally scheduled," said an official.

"Slight technical details caused the delay (for the visit). There is no significance to the delay at all."

"Everything is on track in the Jordanian-Iraqi discussions on renewing the oil agreement and the trade protocol," added the official, who did not want to be identified.

Two other ministers, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas and Minister of Finance Marwan Awad, returned home after four days of talks in Baghdad on Friday.

Contrary to expectations, they did not sign a new oil accord with the Iraqi government, but Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Friday there were no snags in renewing the accord.

The agreement, under which Iraq is expected to increase by seven per cent its oil supplies to Jordan, will be signed when Mr.

(Continued on page 7)

## Jordan is confident of future, Kabariti tells Ajloun residents

Prime minister outlines actions taken to develop northern governorate and address its problems

AJLOUN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Saturday that "Jordan looks with hope and confidence to the future when the voices of aggression and the dreams of expansionism make way for the inevitable just, comprehensive and durable peace."

Addressing a public rally during a visit to Ajloun in northern Jordan, the prime minister said: "Only in an atmosphere of peace can sustainable development and prosperity for the whole region materialise."

On socio-economic development in Jordan, Mr. Kabariti said: "I must admit before you here that the development achievements in Jordan are still below the aspired level. Development in some areas has been achieved at the expense of others, but we are determined to pursue the necessary steps and work seriously towards attaining a national economy whereby Jordan can become more self-reliant and arrive at a stage where development is equally achieved in the various regions."

"Before coming to Ajloun

I reviewed with my colleagues the ministers the various needs of Ajloun Governorate, and the Council of Ministers has already taken decisions in response to these demands," he said.

The prime minister said that a decision had been taken to appropriate a plot of land suitable for constructing a sports complex for the Ajloun region.

The Ministry of Public Works will be studying a request for roads linking 10 villages within the governorate, he said.

He said the government was taking measures to improve tourism, find a suitable plot for a waste dump and construct a waste-water treatment plant. It has also taken measures to carry out water projects for Ajloun as well as the neighbouring towns of Kufunjah and Anjara at a cost of JD4.5 million, he added.

Referring to unemployment and poverty the prime minister recalled that he had announced during his recent visit to Tafleeh in southern Jordan that the government had adopted a

national programme to achieve an integrated social development scheme. He said the government will introduce appropriate legislation and allocate funds for this scheme.

Referring to the work of municipalities, Mr. Kabariti said the government had plans for merging municipalities so that they would be in a better position with sufficient funds to carry out projects and services.

He said Jordan had 291 municipal councils and 400 village councils, most of which suffer from very bad financial situation. But by merging their work, many of the councils' problems will be addressed in a more satisfactory manner, he said.

"We seek to have responsible local councils with efficient staff to carry out the required services," he stressed.

At the outset of the meeting Ajloun Governor Abdullah Hisban, Ajloun Deputy Farah Rahadi and Ajloun Mayor Mohammad Smadi presented the governorate's demands to the

(Continued on page 7)

## Cairo says letter bombs did not come from Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Interior Ministry said Saturday it does not believe eight letter bombs delivered to a prison and the office of an Arabic-language newspaper in the United States were mailed from Egypt.

"The security apparatus has a highly developed ability to detect such messages before they go out," ministry spokesman Major General Raouf Al Menawy said.

The ministry is responsible for internal security. Reports from the United States said the letter bombs, mailed to a Kansas prison and the Al Hayat newspaper in Washington, appeared to be postmarked in the Egyptian port city of Alexandria.

Al Hayat editor Jihad Al Khaziz told the Associated Press that at least one of the letters delivered to his paper's Washington bureau had an Egyptian stamp faced with Pharaoh Ramses II.

Gen. Menawy told Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) that "by using high-tech methods, it is possible to put forged stamps on letters ... to create confusion."

He spoke to MENA in Tunisia, where Arab interior ministers are meeting to discuss how to deal with terrorism.

The opposition daily Al Wafd on Saturday quoted an unnamed Interior Ministry official as saying Egypt uses sophisticated machines and sniffer dogs to check outgoing mail.

The paper quoted Suleiman Metwally, minister of transport and communications, as saying that all incoming and outgoing mail is subjected to "severe scrutinising." He said his ministry was being kept informed of investiga-

## Death toll in Damascus bus blast rises amid condemnation of attack

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Two people critically injured in a bomb blast on a bus died Friday, taking the death toll from the explosion to 11, hospital sources said Saturday.

Twenty-eight people remain hospitalised following the attack while 14 have been discharged, the sources said.

Syria has blamed the Israeli secret service Mossad for Tuesday's bombing of the bus in the Syrian capital, a charge denied by Israel.

U.S. condemns bus blast, page 7

French President Jacques Chirac has condemned the bombing and expressed his sympathy for the families of the victims.

In a telegram he sent to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad after the New Year's Eve blast, Mr. Chirac said:

## Lawzi denounces bombing in message to Qaddoura

UPPER HOUSE OF Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Lawzi on Saturday sent a cable to the speaker of the Syrian People's Council, Abdul Qader Qaddoura, condoling him in his name and on behalf of the members of the Senate on last week's bus bombing in Damascus. Mr. Lawzi condemned the bombing as a terrorist and criminal act and voiced Jordan's solidarity with Syria.

"I received with deep sorrow news about the aggression which saddened your country and killed several people and wounded many others."

"France has condemned this ugly action...France resists in all occasions terrorism," Mr. Chirac said.

The French president expressed his "sincere condolences" and requested Mr. Assad to convey his "full sympathy to families of the victims."

Egyptian Foreign Minis-

(Continued on page 7)

## Rebels reject Fujimori's hard line in hostage crisis

LIMA (AFP) — Leftist rebels holding 74 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's home here warned early Saturday that President Alberto Fujimori must back down to resolve the 18-day crisis.

Four Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels draped three bedsheets atop the residence, one of which read: "Mr. Fujimori, with ultimatums and without dialogue there will never be a solution."

Mr. Fujimori has stood firm against the rebels, saying Peru would not be intimidated. "The Peru we all want ... will not be built overnight and even less so with a rifle held to the head of a hostage," he said in his most recent remarks on Thursday.

The estimated 20 guerril-

las are demanding the release of some 440 fellow rebels imprisoned in Peru's widely criticised prisons and have called for an easing of tough neoliberal economic policies in Peru, a nation in which 49 per cent of the population lives in poverty.

A second homemade banner read: "Today's Peru: 13 million in poverty. Where is the progress?" the third message said: "The mothers, wives and children of our imprisoned comrades also await freedom. Peace to all Peruvians."

In his second public statement since hundreds of hostages were seized during a party Dec. 17 to celebrate the Japanese emperor's birthday, Mr. Fujimori rejected the demands, saying that the only possible resolution was the release


of all of the hostages and the rebels' surrender. "Bloody crimes will not cut poverty," he said in a speech at the Palace of Justice on Thursday.

No hostages have been released since Jan. 1, when seven people including Japanese businessmen and Peruvian government officials were allowed out.

The Japanese and Bolivian ambassadors, the Peruvian foreign minister, the former Peruvian supreme court president and at least 10 top military and anti-terrorist officials are among the 74 still held by the rebels.

Unofficial talks — Peruvian officials have officially refused to acknowledge meeting with the rebels — were not held Friday after

(Continued on page 7)


**ROYAL JORDANIAN** الملكية الأردنية

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**ROYAL JORDANIAN** has the pleasure to announce a new checking - in procedure, for **First and Super Business Class** passengers as of January 1st 1997. Complete departure formalities will be done at Terminal 1 on behalf of First and Business Class passengers, while they are relaxing at the CIP Lounge.

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**NO TO THE ZIONIST FAIR IN AMMAN**

**JORDAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**



## Bosnian party says Iran donated \$500,000

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's main Muslim party on Friday confirmed reports it had received \$500,000 in cash from Iran last year but said the funds were used for charity and not for a political campaign.

The Muslim Nationalist Party of Democratic Action (SDA) issued its statement in response to a U.S. newspaper report that alleged Iran had delivered half a million dollars to then Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for his election campaign.

The Los Angeles Times quoted classified Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) documents as saying Mr. Izetbegovic was a "co-opted" by the Iranians-Bosnia" after receiving two pieces of luggage containing about \$250,000 each.

But Mr. Izetbegovic's party said the money it received was used for legitimate humanitarian charities and scholarship funds for students in the country's Muslim-Croat federation.

The SDA statement said the money was allocated to 1,265 students in various areas and that Saudi Arabia had also contributed to the educational funds.

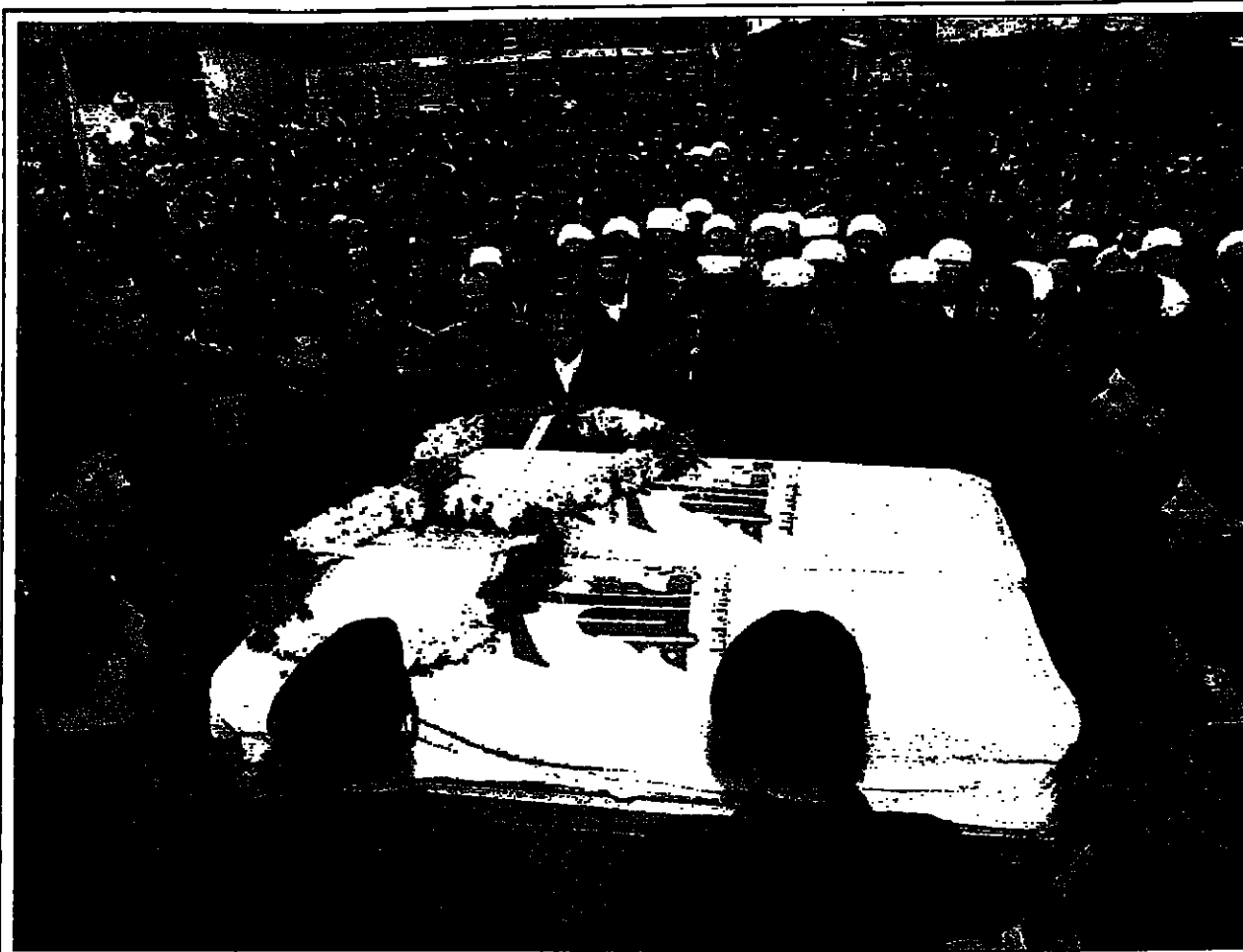
"All aid for these purposes is welcome and the party will not refuse it," it said. The statement said the money was delivered to officials in the party's central committee. It made no mention of the reports of Iranians giving Mr. Izetbegovic bags stuffed with money.

Mr. Izetbegovic won the most votes in a presidential election in Bosnia's peacetime elections in September and now serves as chairman of the three-member collective presidency.

The United States has been pushing Bosnia to break military and intelligence ties to Iran, which Washington considers a "terrorist" state.

U.S. military aid to Bosnia was withheld for months last year because of Washington's concerns about Iranian influence. The arms shipments eventually went ahead after the sacking of a Bosnian deputy defence minister linked to Iranian military aid.

Muslim leaders remain grateful to Iran for delivering badly-needed military assistance to the Sarajevo government during the Bosnian war when Western countries declined to get involved.



**FUNERAL SERVICE:** Leaders and supporters of the Lebanese Hizbollah movement offer prayers on Saturday for two Hizbollah fighters who were killed in clashes last year with Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon. The bodies of the two were returned to Hizbollah on Friday by the Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in return for the remains of two SLA members (Reuters photo)

## Cypriot purchase of Russian missiles likely to raise tension

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus signed a multi-million contract Saturday to buy a sophisticated Russian anti-aircraft missile system, the semi-official Cyprus News Agency (CNA) said. The move is likely to heighten tensions between Greece and Turkey.

No official announcement was likely since the government announced earlier this week it would make no comment on defence issues. But government sources confirmed the deal on condition of anonymity.

Turkey has said it would not tolerate the deployment of Russian missiles on the war-divided island, and Greece warned that any Turkish military action against Cyprus to prevent the missile deployment would spark a Greek-Turkish war.

Greece has a joint defence agreement with Cyprus, and Turkey maintains 30,000 troops in the northern Turkish Cypriot part of the island.

Cyprus has been divided into Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot zones since 1974 when Turkey invaded and seized the northern third of the island to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority. This followed an abortive coup by supporters of union with Greece.

A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is only recognised by Ankara. When Cypriot discussed buying the Russian missiles, the United States criticised the idea and the U.N. Security Council said any increase in the already excessive armaments on the island would only worsen the situation.

The CNA said the deal was concluded at a meeting Saturday in Nicosia between officials of the Russian state-owned Rosvoorzhnie Company, Cypriot Defence Minister Costas Eliades and Finance Minister Christodoulos Christodoulou.

Both ministers declined to confirm a missile deal was reached. The news agency did not give the value of the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system. Cypriot newspaper reports have put the amount at 300 million Cypriot pounds (\$660 million).

Earlier in the week President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, rejected Turkish threats over the possible missile deal. He said Cyprus would do whatever it deemed necessary to strengthen its defence capability.

He added that Cyprus does not intend to attack the Turkish Cypriots, adding that the S-300 missiles pose no threat to the Turkish side since they are defensive. Cypriot officials point out that since Cyprus has no air force, the missiles are meant only as a deterrent against air attack.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash on Friday spoke of the possibility of a war in Cyprus, saying the current tendency on the island was towards conflict, not unification.

"If an accord is forcefully imposed on Cyprus, without sufficient guarantees, the smallest incident between the Turkish-Cypriots and the Greek-Cypriots may explode the whole of Cyprus like a volcano," Mr. Denkash said in a radio interview, according to the Turkish Cypriot news agency.

"The current tendency in Cyprus is toward a war, not unification," Mr. Denkash said in the Turkish world of Nicosia, the sector's last divided capital.

U.N.-sponsored efforts for Cyprus reunification have failed so far. The Turkish Cypriots created their state in 1983, but it has been recognised only by Ankara, which still keeps nearly 35,000 troops in the Turkish sector.

## KDP said to execute four PUK members

CAIRO (AP) — The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Massoud Barzani has executed four members of a rival faction, charging they had carried out a bomb attack in a KDP-controlled city, the group's radio station reported.

The radio broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London, said the four were executed Friday. The radio said the attack occurred in Erbil, the Kurdish provincial capital in northern Iraq which is under Barzani's control.

It said the rich, "deserted" few weeks ago, "had confessed to carrying out the attack under instructions from the leadership of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). There were no further details. The PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, has been contesting for power with Mr. Barzani in the Kurdish-controlled area carved out in northern Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war.

Last August, Barzani's fighters drove Mr. Talabani's supporters out of Erbil and surrounding areas with help from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's army.

On Friday, the London-headquartered Al Hayat newspaper reported that President Saddam is trying to mend fences with Mr. Talabani.

The paper said President Saddam has dispatched a former Kurdish cabinet minister to try to convince Mr. Talabani to open a dialogue with Baghdad.

## Egypt says it expects Europe to expel militant leaders this year

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian interior minister said in an interview published Saturday that he expected European countries to expel several leading members of armed groups during the course of 1997.

"Many (fundamentalist) leaders who have fled and are now living in European countries will be expelled once it has been established without doubt that they were implicated in terrorist acts committed in these countries," Hassan Al Alfi told the pro-government weekly Al Ahram.

He said there were "indications" of cooperation between militants and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and with Basque separatist militants in Spain. These "indications" also tended to prove that the militants were behind recent terrorist attacks in France, he said.

General Alfi said this fact, which had decided European leaders to act to expel the militants, "increases the need" to intensify cooperation among Arab states against terrorism and the need to "take a common stand against terrorism". He said that after being expelled from European

countries, militants would probably attempt to return to their home countries to contact fellow fundamentalist extremists or activists based in other Arab states.

Gen. Alfi travelled Friday to Tunis where Arab interior ministers trying to work out an "Arab strategy against terrorism" are holding Saturday their annual meeting.

Egypt, which has been fighting an insurgency since 1992, claims to have achieved the extradition of dozens of militants, including many from Arab countries.

Last year, the Egyptian pro-government press strongly criticised Britain and several other European countries for providing asylum to "several leading Islamic militants" from Egypt.

### Militant killed

Egyptian police shot dead a leading Islamist militant suspect in an exchange of fire in the south of the country on Saturday, security sources said.

Mohamed Ali Dakroui, better known as Ahmad Al Baskalouni, was killed on a country road near the town of Edwa, about 160 kilometres south of the capital

Cairo, they said. The sources said he was a leading member of the militant Gama'a Al Islamiya in the area and was wanted in connection with bank robberies the Gama'a had carried out to finance its activities.

Police say they have now killed 12 members of his Gama'a unit and only two remain on the run, the sources said. They killed two on Tuesday and one on Friday, all in the same area.

In most of the killings, police said they returned fire when the militants opened fire at them. Human rights group say Egyptian police often shoot to kill when hunting down militants.

In the case of Baskalouni, the security sources said police found an automatic rifle, a pistol and large quantities of ammunition next to his dead body.

The Gama'a is the largest organisation fighting to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state. Police have largely contained its activities to the south.

Almost 1,000 people have been killed and hundreds wounded since the Gama'a took up arms almost five years ago.

## 2 executed in Iran for spying for Israel, U.S.

TEHRAN (AFP) — Two Iranians convicted of spying for Israel and the United States have been executed in Tehran, a newspaper reported Saturday.

Hedayatollah Zende-Del, a businessman who converted from Judaism to Islam, and Abolghasem Majid-Abkahi, who was close to the court of the late Shah of Iran, were executed here on Dec. 29, the newspaper, Keyhan, said.

They were convicted by an Islamic court in July of fraud, subversion and espionage on behalf of Israel and the United States and the conviction was upheld by the supreme court, the newspaper said.

It did not say how the pair were executed. Executions in Iran are generally carried out by hanging.

Zende-Del and five other people were arrested in 1988 and accused of being the ringleaders of a network involved in bank fraud, weapons trafficking and espionage during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Another defendant, Abdol-Reza Yazdanc-

henas, a former air force officer, has also been sentenced to death while the three others were given prison terms.

Ali Sadafian, a former member of the Shah's guard, was sentenced to 23 years in prison and 200 lashes of the whip.

Abdolghafour Sartipi, a businessman, was sentenced to seven years in prison while Freidoun Abu-Zia, an actor and translator, was given 10 years in prison and 110 lashes.

According to prosecutors, the defendants had ties with the family of the late Shah, who was toppled in 1979, and planned to bring down Iran's Islamic regime either by sabotaging the economy or through armed struggle.

They were accused of collecting military secrets during the war with Iraq and passing them on to the United States.

Other charges included adultery, consumption of alcohol and opium and falsification of official documents to allow some 10 Iranians to flee the country, including several Jews who fled to Israel.

## Egyptian bus workers end strike; 23 detained

CAIRO (R) — More than 2,000 Egyptian public transport workers have gone back to work after two days on strike in protest at a decision not to give them an annual bonus, security sources said, on Saturday.

Police in the Nile Delta province of Gharbiya have detained for questioning 33 people from among the 2,700 bus conductors, drivers and other transport workers who went on strike in the provincial capital Tanta, they added.

The strike paralysed work on Thursday and Friday in Tanta's textile mills, whose employees depend on buses to get to work.

On Thursday police said they arrested seven workers in Tanta and three in the nearby town of Al Mahalla Al Kobra who they thought were behind a one-day strike there. Strikes are illegal and rare in Egypt.

The protest began on Wednesday after the governor of Gharbiya cancelled the bonus of two months' salary which the workers have received every January for the past 15 years. He also decided not to issue them with new uniforms because the company had incurred losses last year.

## Meeting in

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Faisal Saturday opened a meeting regarding the development of tourism in the southern regions by emphasising the important role of culture in the life of nations. Addressing an audience of 70 at the University of Jordan, Prince Faisal lauded the role of modern communications which, he said, can help convey images of past cultures and civilisations of different countries.

Prince Faisal, who deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor, stated that culture cannot be understood through mere statistics but, rather, that cultures should be judged through the quotidian life of those from within.

He urged participants to pool their ideas and experience to assist in shedding light on the Kingdom's past civilisations.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Al-Ishaidat described Jordan as having achieved tangible tourist success and he maintained that the tourism sector plays an important role in the Kingdom's economic development and will continue to do so in the future.

According to Dr. Ishaidat, nearly one million tourists visited Jordan in 1995, a 25 per cent increase over the 1994 figure.

The most recent figures he quoted for 1996 numbered approximately 1.2 million. Last October, the minister declared that Jordan earned \$700 million in tourist revenues in 1995 but no figures were yet available for the 1996 revenues.

## Ajloun defence as motive

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The defence team in the case of three men accused of plotting subversion, Saturday told the State Security Court that the explosives their clients collected in 1985 were intended to protect their country in the case of an Israeli invasion.

In their closing argument, Attorney Hani Zahdeh, Radi Ghareibeh and Louai Obaidat told the military tribunal that their clients gathered the land mines to protect themselves and their land from a possible Israeli attack against the Kingdom.

The attorneys argued that the severing of legal ties with the West Bank was unconstitutional and therefore, the so-called occupied territories formed part of the Hashemite

## JORDAN TELEVISION

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### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 ..... Jimmy Quest  
14:30 ..... You Bet Your Life  
15:00 ..... Cajun  
15:30 ..... Week-Ends Spectacular  
16:00 ..... Doc. — World Echo  
16:30 ..... The Famous Five (Drama)  
17:00 ..... News Flash  
17:02 ..... Our World, Their World  
17:15 ..... Doc. — All the Children  
18:00 ..... Magazine — Fant Pas Revier  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:15 ..... Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
20:00 ..... Documentary — The Giant Nile  
20:30 ..... The Album Show  
21:10 ..... Doc. Tycoons  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:25 ..... Hot Shots  
23:30 ..... Police drama — O'Hara

### PRAYER TIMES

05:07 ..... Fajr  
06:30 ..... (Sunrise) Doha  
11:37 ..... Dhuhr  
14:21 ..... 'Asr  
16:44 ..... Maghreb  
18:07 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweilich. Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

### Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

### Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.  
775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church  
Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
(64932).

### Church of Nazarene Tel.

675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
It will be sunny and temperatures  
above annual average. It will be  
relatively cold at night and winds  
southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba,  
it will be hot and winds northerly  
moderate. Seas will be calm.

### Min/Max. temp.

Amman ..... 07/18  
Aqaba ..... 11/24  
Deserts ..... 05/19  
Jordan Valley ..... 10/23

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Fayed Al Dabbas ..... 759155  
Dr. Fakher Bibeisi ..... 552233  
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 779797  
Dr. Mazen Nball ..... 830435  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Aserna pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairouth pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Al Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

### IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 281482  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... —  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Zuhair Al Qadi ..... 906606  
Khalifah pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

### AMMAN

07/18  
11/24  
05/19  
10/23

### Yesterdays high temperatures:

Amman 16, Aqaba 25 Humidity  
readings: Amman 30 per cent,  
Aqaba 32 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Fayed Al Dabbas ..... 759155  
Dr. Fakher Bibeisi ..... 552233  
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 779797  
Dr. Mazen Nball ..... 830435  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Aserna pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairouth pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Al Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

### IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 281482  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... —  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Zuhair Al Qadi ..... 906606  
Khalifah pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

### Civil Defence Department

661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue  
630341  
Civil Defence Emergency  
1999  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Dept. .... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdoli Tel. Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
J. Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Co. .... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### Shmeisani Hospital

669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612637  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajree ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir ..... 77511126  
Army, Marka ..... 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60224050  
Anat Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and  
Special Surgery ..... 865199

### ZARQA:

Govt. Hospital ..... 09983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 09986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 09990990

### IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital ..... 02127555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 02127275  
Ibn Al Nafess Hospital ..... 021247100

### AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital ..... 03131411

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381352  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 64428116  
Alshah Maternity ..... 64244112  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the Queen Alia

### International Airport Tel.

08153200-5, where it should  
always be verified. Information on  
other flights can be supplied on  
phone 08 (52700)

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:35, Osaka, Bangkok, Dubai  
(add) (RJ)  
08:15 ..... Bombay (RJ)  
08:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
09:50 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (add)  
(RJ)  
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
17:05 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
17:45 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
17:45 ..... London (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Athens (RJ)  
18:40 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Tunis (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Rome (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
20:25 ..... Rome (add) (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
23:59 ..... Cairo (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:20 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
12:40 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
15:20 ..... Moscow (SU)  
15:30 ..... Dubai (EK)  
20:10 ..... Beirut (ME)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
08:40 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Tunis (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Rome (add) (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
21:00 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
21:05 ..... Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
22:10 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
03:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
04:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
04:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
05:45 ..... Marka, Aqaba (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:30 ..... London (KJ)  
07:00 ..... Beirut (ME)  
07:15 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)

## WHAT'S GOING

Plastic art by John Naqashian  
at the Jordan Design  
Centre, until Jan. 9.  
Products of the Jordan Design  
Centre, until Jan. 9.  
Exhibition of colourful gifts  
and works by several artists  
entitled "From Scripts to Abstract  
Painting exhibition by Hind Nas  
Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana  
exhibition of arts and crafts  
items.

## EXHIBITION

"The Wonderful and Horrible  
Riefenstahl" at the British Council  
at 6:00 p.m.

## FILM

"The Wonderful and Horrible  
Riefenstahl" at the British Council  
at 6:00 p.m.

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 550/550  
Banana (imported) ..... 850/600  
Cabbage ..... 60/40  
Carrot ..... 270/150  
Cauliflower ..... 130/100  
Cucumber (large) ..... 130/90  
Cucumber (small) ..... 230/160  
Eggplant ..... 150/80  
Garlic ..... 850/600  
Grape fruit ..... 150/100  
Lemon ..... 380/250  
Marrow (large) ..... 70/40  
Marrow (small) ..... 130/70  
Onion (green) ..... 140/60  
Onion (dry) ..... 170/100  
Orange ..... 560/400  
Pepper (hot



s Europe to  
rs this year

Carro, they said.  
The sources said he was a leading member of the militant Gama'a Al Islamiya in the area and was wanted in connection with bank robberies the Gama'a had carried out to finance its activities.

Police say they have now killed 12 members of the Gama'a unit and only two remain on the run, the sources said. They killed two on Tuesday and one on Friday, all in the same area. In most of the killings, police said they returned fire when the militants opened fire at them. Human rights groups say Egyptian police often shoot to kill when hunting down militants.

In the case of Baskoun, the security sources said police found an automatic rifle, a pistol and large quantities of ammunition next to his dead body.

The Gama'a is the largest organisation fighting to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state. Police have largely contained its activities in the south.

Almost 1,000 people have been killed and hundreds wounded since the Gama'a took up arms almost five years ago.

Egyptian  
bus workers  
end strike:  
23 detained

CAIRO (R) — More than 2,000 Egyptian public transport workers have gone back to work after two days of strike in protest at a decision not to give them an annual bonus, security sources said on Saturday.

Police in the Nile Delta province of Gharbiya have detained for questioning 23 people from among the 2,000 bus conductors, drivers and other transport workers who went on strike in the provincial capital Tanta, they said.

The strike paralysed Tanta's textile mills as employees depend on buses to get to work.

On Thursday police arrested seven workers in Tanta and three in the town of Al Mahalla el Kobra who they thought were behind a one-day strike there. Strikes are rare in Egypt.

The protest began Wednesday after the government of Gharbiya cancelled bonuses of two months' salary which the workers had received every January for the past 15 years. It decided not to issue the bonus with new uniforms because the company had incurred losses last year.

Meeting to discuss tourism  
in south starts

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Faisal Saturday opened a meeting regarding the development of tourism in the southern regions by emphasising the important role of culture in the life of nations.

Addressing an audience of 70 at the University of Jordan, Prince Faisal lauded the role of modern communications which, he said, can help convey images of past cultures and civilisations of different countries.

Prince Faisal, who deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor, stated that culture cannot be understood through mere statistics but, rather, that cultures should be judged through the quotidian life of those from within.

He urged participants to pool their ideas and expertise to assist in shedding light on the Kingdom's past civilisations.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat described Jordan as having achieved tangible tourist success and he maintained that the tourism sector plays an important role in the Kingdom's economic development and will continue to do so in the future.

According to Dr. Irsheidat, nearly one million tourists visited Jordan in 1995, a 25 per cent increase over the 1994 figures.

The most recent figures he quoted for 1996 numbered to approximately 1.2 million.

Last October, the minister declared that Jordan earned \$700 million in tourist revenues in 1995 but no figures were yet available for the 1996 revenues.



HRH Prince Faisal

Stressing that the ministry is closely cooperating with the private sector, the minister enumerated plans for developing the tourism industry within the Dead Sea and Aqaba regions, adding that the private sector has built hotels and continues to construct, so that by the year 2000 the country will have 18,000 hotel rooms to absorb an increasing flow of visitors.

Dr. Irsheidat also announced ministry plans for developing archaeological and tourist sites in Amman, Jerash, Madaba, Petra, the Dead Sea and Wadi Rum in conjunction with other nations and international organisations.

He said that the government will give investment priority to the tourist sector and is keen on creating an amenable climate for foreign investment.

Dr. Nabil Hamdi from Oxford University in England, which is cooperating with the University of

Jordan, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States and Muta University, stated that the meeting will focus attention on social, cultural and traditional life in southern Jordan and that participants will be making field trips to different tourist and archaeological sites.

Director of Foreign Relations at the University of Jordan Kamel Mahadin added that emphasis will be placed on the traditional and cultural life of southern Jordan.

Participants will also visit a number of villages in southern Jordan to study the environment in order to participate in field work and find ways of protecting traditional architecture and buildings. The participants will collaborate in several workshops on means of initiating projects related to the revival of traditional life in the southern regions.

Jordan News Agency, Petra,  
inaugurates new facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher Saturday inaugurated new facilities of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, newsroom and said that this year the agency has a real chance to become an independent department.

The new arrangements entail reorganising the agency's work to enable a revenue collection through marketing its news service on a commercial basis and thereby improving its performance and quality of public service, Dr. Muasher maintained in a speech to mark the occasion.

He declared that there was no reason for Petra to offer its services to the private sector free of charge and that steps must be taken to market these services on a commercial basis.

Preliminary studies have indicated that Petra is capable of marketing information services and potentially earning JD 500,000 in the next four years, he said.

Dr. Muasher expressed his wish that in addition to Petra, the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and the Press and Publications Department would this year follow suit in implementing systems according to the dictates of expert boards which might boost services and attain qualitative improvements conforming to modern media trends.

He urged Petra to develop its financial department and prepare the agency to run as an independent agency operating on commercial basis.

He also requested that the agency accelerate the creation of a computerised archives system before the



Marwan Muasher

end of 1997.

Dr. Muasher affirmed that the Ministry of Information will log on the Internet in the next four months in order to facilitate the Kingdom's interaction on an international level.

Director General of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Abdullah Etoum outlined the agency's expansion of services covering local and foreign news.

He confirmed that last year 19 Jordanian embassies subscribed to Petra Arabic and English news.

Mr. Etoum also announced that this week Petra appointed five correspondents in Bonn, Washington, Moscow, Tunis and Gaza and that other correspondents had been previously mandated to New York, Beirut, Cairo, Rabat, Paris and Copenhagen.

He detailed Petra's 1997 budget as reaching JD 909,000 and stated that the news agency recently opened new offices in four governorates, forming a total of 16 offices in the Kingdom.

## 2 bus accidents leave 30 injured

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thirty people were injured Friday and Saturday in two separate bus accidents in Irbid and Tafleeh, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

Early Saturday morning a bus heading to Saudi Arabia with pilgrims on their way to perform the Omra sped out of control and crashed near the Abiad area in Tafleeh.

A police official told the Jordan Times Saturday that the accident, which occurred at 5:00 a.m., was attributed to speeding.

The accident caused injury to 18 people who were taken by CDD rescue units to hospital in Tafleeh.

The attending doctor said all but two of the injured were discharged. The two remaining victims were still being treated.

In Irbid, 12 people, including two children, were injured in a road accident near Marou intersection on Friday, CDD reports said.

The official reports said the accident involved a collision between a pick-up truck and a public bus. No further details were available.

An official at Princess

Basma Hospital where the injured were taken said only three victims are still being treated, the others were treated and discharged from hospital the same evening, he added.

Meanwhile, police in Wihdat are investigating the murder of a 42-year-old man who was stabbed to death in his house, an official report said Saturday.

The victim, identified as Mohammad Abdullah Muhana, was stabbed several times in the chest following a family argument and was rushed to Al Bashir Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

## Pan-Arab business conference planned

AMMAN (Petra) — The first conference of businessmen in the Arab World is scheduled to open in Amman tomorrow and will cover support for the Palestinian economy as well as ways of opening channels for intensive cooperation between the Palestinian business community and the rest of the Arab World, head of the Egyptian Businessmen's Association Said Tawil said upon his arrival in Amman Saturday.

He also said that much effort is being exerted towards ensuring the success of the meeting and towards creating a pan-Arab business council to bolster cooperation in the Arab World.

The Monday meeting will pave the way for the creation of an Arab economic block, he said, adding that the 600 participants representing 15

Arab countries are expected to emphasise the importance of creating an Arab free trade zone to facilitate a flow of goods, services and capital among Arab countries and contribute towards promoting trade within the Arab World.

Mr. Tawil said that the meeting will also move to ensure the implementation of agreements passed by the Arab League such as brainstorming a mechanism to execute the Arab Common Market Agreement and a new strategy for tourism industries in various Arab countries.

He and his delegation held a preliminary meeting with Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and other members on the board of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) to review final preparations and the meeting's agenda.

The JBA is in charge of

organising the event.

JBA sources said that the Monday conference is hoped to constitute a turning point in private sector relations of the Arab World which, in turn, might bolster each respective Arab economy.

The meeting in Amman demonstrates the strong desire of the Arab business community to achieve closer cooperation and revive a pan-Arab common economic coordination, the sources said.

They said that the Amman conference is slated to be attended by delegates representing the Arab League Secretariat, various Arab funds and financial and economic organisations and is expected to give momentum to collective Arab efforts in collectively confronting challenges facing the Arab economy.

Ajloun defence team pleads self-protection  
as motive for possession of explosives

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The defence team in the case of three men accused of plotting subversion, Saturday told the State Security Court that the explosives their clients collected in 1995 were intended to protect their country in the case of an Israeli invasion.

In their closing argument, Attorneys Hani Zahdeh, Radi Ghareibeh and Louai Obaidat told the military tribunal that their clients gathered the land mines to protect themselves and their land from a "possible Israeli attack against the Kingdom."

The attorneys argued that the severing of legal ties with the West Bank was unconstitutional and therefore, the so-called occupied territories formed part of the Hashemite

Kingdom of Jordan. Formal charges pressed against the men, all from Ajloun, were plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal explosives with illicit intent.

The defence charged that their clients were subjected to questioning under duress and were "each illegally detained in solitary cells at the security forces headquarters for 17 days."

"We question the legality and credibility of our defendants' confessions as they were interrogated for a long period of time," the defence attorneys said in their eight-page closing argument.

The attorneys further stated that the military prosecution failed to present evidence that their clients were plotting to carry out extremist attacks.

The attorneys asked the court to acquit their clients of two of the charges or to reduce the sentence as "our clients are still young with no previous criminal records."

"Our clients are known for their national devotion and they had no criminal records nor showed extremist aggressions or extremist philosophies," the defence team told the court.

Ikreemah Mahmoud, 28, Yousef Ahmad, 27, and Ali Mahmoud, 27, told the court last month that they extracted land mines from an Ajloun mine to protect themselves in case of an Israeli attack against the Kingdom.

The defendants, who in October pleaded guilty only for illegal possession of explosives, denied illicit intent and stressed that self-protection was their only

motive. According to the prosecution charge sheet, the three men collected land mines from an Ajloun mine in November of 1995 and planned to use the explosives to target Israeli tourists in the area.

But the three were apprehended by authorities before actually carrying out any attack.

Last week, Military Prosecutor Samih Majali asked the court in his closing argument for full conviction of the three men.

The military tribunal, comprised of Justices Yousef Faouri, Na'el Massadeh and Ahmad Ayash, postponed the trial until Jan. 20 to review the case file and either issue a sentence or call for a further examination of the case.

## Peace seminar ends on a determined note

By Sacha Baghill  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A four-day workshop which convened in Ajloun Thursday, entitled "Learning to Live Together," and designed to highlight the role of educators in promoting peaceful co-existence between Arabs and Jews, reached a positive conclusion Saturday as participants resolved that a four-year programme of similar events for educators should be planned to sustain the benefits of uniting the diverse cultures of the region.

This particular workshop was intended as a follow-up to three previous seminars, held between 1994 and 1996, in Elsinore, Denmark, by the International People's College, which united educators from Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Kuwait. This event reportedly aims to evaluate the experiences of past seminars and develop plans for the future accordingly.

"It has been very moving for us to see Jews and Arabs meeting together in the Middle East to share experiences of previous seminars and views on their roles as educators, whether Arabs or Jews, in preparing their pupils to accept and practice peaceful co-existence," Dr. Diala Garba, lecturer at the International People's College and director of this event, told the Jordan Times.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to hold one of our seminars in the Middle East for the first time, as it has been difficult to do so in previous years. This event also included participants from Tunisia and Mauritania, and in our discussions concerning plans for the future, participants decided that a four-year programme should be instituted. This will include a seminar targeted at new educators in the summer of 1997," Dr. Garba continued.

Participants stated that they gained a personal benefit from the event.

As one of the four Arab-Israeli educators participating, Rana Fahoum a teacher at both the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at an Arab school in East Jerusalem, asserted that "as a person familiar with both the Arab and Jewish cultures [she is] particularly aware of the need for greater co-ordination between the two in the field of education."

"On an individual level it has been of paramount importance for many Arab educators to meet their Jewish counterparts, and vice-versa. On a general level, we have all realised that, although, in the great scheme of things, our role in promoting peace is small, day-by-day, year-by-year and little by little, we can make a difference," Ms. Fahoum continued.

On Thursday, representative of the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education Maysoon Khatib opened the "Learning to Live Together" workshop with additional addresses from Ambassador of Denmark to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan

Lars Blinckburg, and Honorary Danish Consul General in Jordan Tawfiq Amin Kawar.

After a workshop field trip to Petra, which according to Dr. Garba was "a multi-dimensional activity bringing people of the region together in awe of Petra's beauty," Friday's activities ended with presentations from various Israeli and Egyptian educators, under the topic "What have we done with the experiences from the past seminars?"

The conclusion reached by these four speakers, was that they, as people working in the field of education, would like to do more in promoting peace, but that the extent of their work is ultimately dictated by the political situation on the ground.

According to Dr. Garba, project ideas, which emerged from previous seminars by the International People's College, such as exchange programmes for teachers and pupils, have been difficult to implement due to a recent standstill in the peace process.

Keynote speakers Saturday aimed to impart knowledge and views to further enrich educators' abilities in understanding the cultural and political dynamics of the Middle East and, therefore, advance their abilities in fulfilling their role, which according to Ms. Khatib, is to prepare pupils to accept and practice peaceful co-existence in an atmosphere of security, peace and stability.

Ateeh Jawadreh, who is involved in managing daily contact between Palestinians and the Israeli Authorities, made a presentation entitled, "Daily Contact Between Palestinians and Israelis," Acram Atalla, Director of a Norwegian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), made a presentation entitled "NGOs and the peace process" which, according to Dr. Garba, "highlighted financial difficulties impeding the work of NGOs in the region, despite the crucial role they play at every level of society."

Also addressing the workshop Saturday, Lea Shakkid, a university lecturer and Orthodox Jew, and Pascal Matarweh, an Arab Christian, presented speeches under the topic heading "Religion and Peace Education."

According to Dr. Garba, Ms. Shakkid presented an "account of ideas of peace in Judaism and revealed the strong scriptural basis for peace in the religion."

"Mr. Matarweh highlighted the mutual respect of peace of the three monotheistic religions of the Middle East by quoting passages from the old and new testaments and the Koran," Dr. Garba said.

"Later activities involved planning project ideas for the four-year programme of seminars for educators in the Middle East and distributing responsibilities in preparation for upcoming seminars," he concluded.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## FILM

\*The Wonderful and Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl at the British Council, Jabal Amman, at 6:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

\*Plaque art by John Naqashian at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Jan. 9.

\*Products of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation at the Movenpick Hotel, Petra, until Jan. 10.

\*Exhibition of colourful gifts and crafts designed by Andrea Atalla at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 699141/2), until Jan. 10.

\*Works by several artists entitled "The Artist and the Environment" by several artists at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Dec. 30.

\*Works of small paintings by Jordanian and Arab artists at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 647398), until Jan. 14.

\*Works by Spanish painter Clara Amado at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman until 15 Jan.

\*Works by ten contemporary Indonesian artists entitled "From Scripts to Abstraction" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (open daily except Tuesdays), until Jan. 12.

\*Painting exhibition by Hind Nasser at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman (Tel. 647858), until Jan. 10. Also displaying a regular exhibition of arts and crafts and Christmas items.

Schedules, regulations  
issued for Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — During the coming month of Ramadan, expected to commence Friday Jan. 10, government departments will open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 2:00 p.m., according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday.

The prime minister said that these rules do not apply to certain government services whose functioning inherently requires a different schedule to be worked out by their respective directors.

During Ramadan, the prime minister added, government offices must ensure that Muslim precepts concerning dawn to dusk fasting are respected.

Also Saturday, Minister of Education Munther Masri announced the public school schedule for the month of Ramadan. He said that regular

schools should start at 8:00 a.m. and that each class period should not exceed 40 minutes, a five minute decrease from the rest of the year.

Schools which hold a double shift schedule, he stated, should start at seven in the morning for the first shift, during which class periods should not exceed 35 minutes and that the second shift should begin 20 minutes after the morning shift breaks.

These schools generally hold classes of a 40 minute duration.

Also Saturday, the Grand Mufti Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi issued a statement calling on Muslims to watch for the new Ramadan month Wednesday evening on Jan. 8, 1996.

He stated that anyone spotting the new moon should report it to the nearest Islamic Court.

JORDAN IS NOT THE ZIONIST  
BRIDGE TO THE ARAB WORLD

## NO TO THE ZIONIST FAIR IN AMMAN



JORDAN ENGINEERS  
ASSOCIATION



## Serbian opposition readies for marathon series of protests

BELGRADE (R) — Serbia's opposition said Saturday it was preparing for a marathon series of protests against election fraud after President Slobodan Milosevic showed no sign of bowing to their demands or to Western pressure.

The opposition, whose daily rallies on the streets of Belgrade have lasted since its victories in mid-November local elections were annulled by ruling Socialists, said it might also boycott Serbian presidential elections next year.

The Zajedno (Together) Coalition has said the Serbian government's admission Friday of the opposition's partial victory in disputed polls was insufficient. It has vowed to keep demonstrating until all its successes were recognised.

The government's admission came in a letter from Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic in response to an Organisation for

Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) report that accepted Zedno's claim of victory in 15 of Serbia's largest towns including Belgrade.

Aimed at defusing criticism, the letter backfired when organisations at home and abroad issued damning responses.

The OSCE redoubled its call for Mr. Milosevic to recognise all Zedno's election triumphs, the United States slammed Belgrade's "hollow assurances" of commitment to democracy, and Zedno called the document a pack of lies.

"We will continue protests until the same time next year if it takes. Not that it will, given the rising amount of support we are getting from the population," said Milan Bozic, political advisor to Vuk Draskovic, one of Zedno's leaders.

He was among opposition figures who believe the autocratic Milosevic's authority is crumbling under pressure from the protesters and gestures of dissent from the army, church and even from within his feared police forces.

But a Democratic Party spokesman said the police were also bracing for the long haul.

"Since the authorities have set up pre-fabricated buildings in Belgrade to house the police... There is no doubt the SPS (ruling Socialist Party) has decided to keep them there for a long time," Slobodan Vukosavljevic said.

Zoran Djindjic, one of Zedno's leaders, said the opposition was prepared to talk to Mr. Milosevic, but only if he ended state censorship of the media that has prevented free reporting of the protests.

If the president did not show he was ready to make concessions, Zedno would not only boycott the presidential elections but also

withdraw its members from parliament.

Serbian presidential elections are due by the end of the year. After a landslide victory last November for the federal parliament, the ruling Socialists hinted that Mr. Milosevic would hold them as early as in March to capitalise on his popularity.

But the defeat at the local elections and ensuing mass protests have forced Mr. Milosevic to delay the election until the end of the year, analysts say.

Tens of thousands of whistle-blowing supporters protested in a Belgrade square for the 47th consecutive day Friday with fresh protests due Saturday.

The protest erupted into an ear-splitting noise at 7:30 p.m. As Belgraders leaned from windows and balconies to blow whistles and bang pots to "drown" out the nightly news bulletin on state television, which they accuse of slanted coverage.



Opposition leader Vuk Draskovic (centre) speaks to a crowd while his coalition partner Vesna Petic (left) stands by during a protest rally against election rigging in Belgrade's Republic Square Friday. Embattled by six straight weeks of street protests, the Serbian government admitted Friday that opposition parties won some municipal elections but said it needed more detail to clarify results in other towns (Reuters photo)

## Chechen candidates vow fair campaign

MOSCOW (R) — Presidential candidates completed their registration in the breakaway region of Chechnya Friday and pledged a fair fight, Russian news media reported.

The vote is set for Jan. 27 as part of a peace agreement under which Russia is withdrawing its last remaining troops from the region.

The political future of the oil-rich Caucasian republic will not be finally fixed for five years. Moscow hopes it will remain loosely within the Russian Federation but all the main presidential contenders support full independence.

Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, died in Chechnya after President Boris Yeltsin sent in troops to crush the region's independence bid in December 1994.

Russian Television said 16 candidates had raised the minimum 10,000 signatures of support needed to contest the election.

Other reports put the figure as high as 19.

Some of the candidates, including acting President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, attended a short ceremony in which they vowed to respect the results of the poll.

Chechen Vice-Prime Minister Ruslan Kutayev appealed to all Chechens, including an estimated 350,000 refugees who fled 21 months of bloody fighting in the region, to take part in the voting, in which a new parliament will also be elected.

Mr. Kutayev told Ekho Moskvy radio that the election results would shape Chechnya's course well into the next century.

Aslan Maskhadov, who has headed Chechnya's provisional coalition government since the signing of a peace deal on Aug. 31, is the favourite to win the presidency, news agencies said.

Mr. Maskhadov, a pragmatist also pre-

ferred by Moscow, raised some 100,000 signatures in support of his candidacy. Inter-fax News Agency reported.

Mr. Kutayev, citing a recent poll conducted by the Centre of Sociological Research, said Mr. Maskhadov could win as much as 76 per cent of votes cast.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the five main contenders — Mr. Maskhadov, Mr. Yandarbiyev, Shamil Basayev, Movladi Urugov and Ahmed Zakayev — would meet on Jan. 5, possibly to discuss the possibility of only one candidate running for the presidency in the interests of national unity.

But it said the idea, reportedly supported by Mr. Yandarbiyev, was unlikely to win wider backing.

## Rebels behead 5 workers in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Algerian rebels beheaded five building workers as they slept in a village in northern Algeria on New Year's Eve, El Watan newspaper reported Saturday.

It was a second night of horror for Douaouda village, 60 kilometres west of the capital Algiers, within two months.

In November the Liberté newspaper said more than 20 rebels attacked Douaouda, dragged 10 women and three children into the room of a house and slit their throats, one by one.

More than 80 civilians were reported killed in attacks by Muslim rebels across Algeria in December, including 28 said by security forces to have been slaughtered in Dhamra village, 120 kilometres southwest of Algiers, on Dec. 29.

About 60,000 people have died in Algeria's violence since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria's prime minister said Saturday his country will invite observers from international organisations to monitor its general elections planned for the first half of 1997.

Ahmad Ouyahia, quoted by the official Algerian News Agency (APS) as addressing the Transitional National Council (CNT), also said the government would soon set up an independent body to oversee the parliamentary elections.

Algeria has been without an elected assembly since January 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead. The cancellation sparked violence in which about 60,000 people have died in the past five years. The CNT is an unelected, officially-appointed body which acts as a quasi-parliament.

The outlawed radical Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which took a commanding lead in the 1992 election, is banned from competing for the elections. But two legal Muslim fundamentalist groups, Namas and Nahda, are expected to field candidates in the poll.

The government invited scores of observers from the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and Arab League to supervise the 1995 presidential election.

President Liamine Zeroual, who won the presidential poll, promised parliamentary and local elections in 1997 to complete building elected institutions.

## Yeltsin, Kohl discuss NATO

MOSCOW (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Saturday became the first Western leader to visit President Boris Yeltsin since the Russian leader's heart surgery last November.

Russian Television showed Mr. Kohl, a personal friend of the 65-year-old president, arriving at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 government airport in a snow flurry.

Mr. Kohl then flew by helicopter to the Rus State Hunting Lodge, some 100 kilometres west of the capital, where his talks with Mr. Yeltsin were due to take place.

Kremlin press spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky told Interfax News Agency that Mr. Yeltsin personally met Mr. Kohl at the Rus helipad in a sign of the leaders' warm relations.

"I am glad, Helmut, that we are opening the New Year's international calendar with this meeting, with talks on issues of mutual interest to Germany and to Russia," Mr. Yastrzhembsky quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying.

German government spokesman Herbert Schmueling said Friday the future shape of the European security system would be the main topic of three to four hours of discussions.

Mr. Kohl will fly home

after giving a news conference.

The chancellor will be hoping his warm personal relations with Mr. Yeltsin and the close ties Germany has with Russia — Bonn is Moscow's biggest creditor — will help overcome the Kremlin's strong objections to the enlargement of the Atlantic alliance.

NATO foreign ministers agreed last month to issue invitations in July for the first former Soviet Bloc countries to join the alliance, and at the same time establish relations giving Russia a role in shaping Europe's defence arrangements.

On Friday German Defence Minister Volker Rühle conferred with senior U.S. officials in Washington to ensure that the Western allies speak with one voice to Russia on NATO's plans.

French President Jacques Chirac is also due in Moscow later this month and President Bill Clinton plans to meet Yeltsin in the United States in March. British Prime Minister John Major has also been invited to Russia but a date is yet to be set.

Western leaders hope Mr. Yeltsin's return to the Kremlin after months of ill health and convalescence will mean a more coordinated

and predictable stance from Russia.

During Mr. Yeltsin's long absence senior Russian officials often made divergent statements about NATO's enlargement plans.

Even before the ailing Mr. Yeltsin dropped from public view just before winning the final round of last July's presidential race, Russia's relations with NATO had been overshadowed by domestic considerations as the president tried to woo nationalist voters.

Western analysts say Russia has already reconciled itself to the first wave of NATO enlargement — likely to include Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic — but is taking a tough position in order to secure other concessions.

There is a special personal chemistry between Mr. Kohl and Mr. Yeltsin. In September, Mr. Yeltsin invited the German leader to take a brief Siberian holiday with him in 1997, promising to share the joys of the traditional Russian "banya" or steam bath.

Apart from discussing NATO, Mr. Kohl may urge Mr. Yeltsin to push ahead with creating safer and more stable conditions to help overcome Western firms' fears about investing in Russia.

## Taleban report advance north of Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Taleban-controlled Kabul Radio said Taleban forces had made gains in heavy fighting north of Kabul, killing at least six fighters and wounding 15.

It said Taleban units had repelled an assault by opposition forces loyal to ousted government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood and northern General Abdul Rasheed Dostum, and then launched a counter-attack.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press quoted a Taleban source in Kabul Friday as saying the Taleban had lost four dead in the

clashes, which broke a relative lull of a few days.

The source said the Taleban captured at least 10 opposition fighters and seized several military posts in the Dosaraka area, near Bagram Air Base, about 50 kilometres north of Kabul.

The two sides were still exchanging artillery fire well after nightfall, the source said.

In the capital itself, the radio said Taleban patrols had been enforcing strict rules against amusements Friday, the Muslim holy day, and punishing violators.

It said unspecified Islamic

Sharia Law punishments had been given to people caught flying kites, releasing homing pigeons, watching dog-fights or cock-fights, or playing games with eggs.

The Taleban administration's Department for Promoting Good and Fighting Evil warned Thursday that it would ensure Kabul citizens stopped work to perform their Islamic prayers five times a day in the city's mosques.

The Taleban, who seized Kabul on Sept. 27, have enforced a strict Islamic code across much of Afghanistan.

## France says 2 soldiers killed in Central Africa clashes

PARIS (R) — Two French soldiers were killed in the Central African Republic Saturday after overnight protests by civilians who stoned French positions in the capital Bangui, the French government announced.

The Defence Ministry condemned "the cowardly murder of two French soldiers on the morning of Jan. 4" and said they had been working for a committee set up by four African leaders to negotiate a truce.

"France reiterates its support for the action of this committee of African heads of state and will not tolerate such attacks against its soldiers, who are working for peace and democracy," it said in a statement.

A spokesman for the ministry said he had

no more information on the killings. Earlier reports said French troops and Central African Republic army mutineers clashed in Bangui Saturday after the overnight protests. One unconfirmed report said one civilian had been killed.

Witnesses said French troops, who inter-

vened in an earlier army revolt in May to keep President Ange-Felix Patasse in power, had deployed tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the city centre and were fired at by mutineers.

One report said French troops fired tear gas in the air to disperse civilian supporters of the mutineers, who tried overnight to advance down Avenue Boganda, which leads to the city centre from southern suburbs controlled by the rebels.

Witnesses said mutineers then mingled with the civilian protesters to fire at sandbagged French positions in the avenue, the capital's main thoroughfare.

The Central African Republic, one of the world's poorest nations, has suffered three army mutinies this year. They began over pay but have turned into a campaign to oust Mr. Patasse, a civilian elected in 1993 after the advent of multi-party politics. Mr. Patasse has refused to stand down.

France has an estimated 2,000 troops stationed under a defence pact with the former French colony.

## Suu Kyi vows to struggle for Burma democracy

RANGOON (R) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi marked the nation's 49th anniversary of independence Saturday with a vow to step up efforts to bring democracy to Burma despite restrictions on her and her supporters.

"We are going to continue with the work we have set out for ourselves, which is to achieve democracy for Burma," said Ms. Suu Kyi, daughter of General Aung San who was killed just as he was finalising details of Burma's independence from Britain.

"My father did not give up his life that Burma might be crushed under the military's boot," Ms. Suu Kyi told a news conference at an independence day celebration at her house.

"He gave up his life that Burma might be free... because he thought that only in a free Burma would people be able to realise their full potential. We are confident that without democracy, Burma can never be the kind of country that the fathers of independence envisaged," she said.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), in a surprise move, allowed Ms. Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party to hold the celebration at her residence — the first major gathering allowed at the Nobel Peace laureate's home since an NLD congress last May.

For the past month Ms. Suu Kyi has been under close scrutiny and virtually confined to her house as the military government restricted her movements and visitors in the wake of a series of student street demonstrations and bombings in the capital.

Some diplomats attending the function expressed surprise that it was allowed to take place, saying it could be an effort by the SLORC to show it was willing to make some compromises.

The celebration, attended by about 1,500 NLD members and other invited guests, took place in a thatched-roof meeting hall in Ms. Suu Kyi's compound and included speeches by top NLD officials and a political song competition.

"We, the NLD, firmly believe that there is no other way except dialogue to solve the political, economic and social problems which the people face today," the NLD said in an independence day statement.

In contrast, a government ceremony to mark independence included a message from SLORC Chairman General Than Shwe that said Burma was progressing well but warned citizens of internal and external efforts to disturb the nation's peace.

Although Ms. Suu Kyi said she appreciated the fact the SLORC allowed guests and the media to pass through barricades blocking access to her street to attend the celebration, she blasted the government for its restrictive measures and repeated crackdowns on the democracy movement.

"I am being kept under wrongful restraint," said Ms. Suu Kyi, who was released from six years of house arrest in July 1995.

"We have a list of political prisoners taken over the past two months and this is now well over 100, and I think the numbers are going to go up," she said. "A little bit more cooperation on the side of the authorities would mean a lot of cooperation on our side."

She said the NLD planned to recruit new members this year, despite a 1991 law banning political parties from increasing in size.

## More cold

PARIS (R) — Temperatures in parts of Europe rose slightly Saturday, but the hope for the frozen continent was expected to be met as meteorologists forecast a further cold snap for Monday.

"We should see temperatures back down to between minus 10 and minus 14 Celsius (14 to seven Fahrenheit) from Monday," said an official from Meteo France, the French meteorological office.

More than 200 people are dead across Europe since Christmas from the severe cold, many of them homeless. A spate of traffic accidents caused by the icy conditions has added to the toll.

In Russia Saturday, rescuers managed to reach a road tunnel in the southern Caucasus Mountains where dozens of people had been trapped for a week by blizzards.

However, the transalpine link linking Russia and Italy was not yet completely open. About 30 people were still blocked on the road, most of them elderly who refused to abandon their vehicles. Other stranded motorists were airlifted to safety.

Meanwhile, in Germany, a cold penetrated the vast area of Cologne Cathedral, where worshippers had to break the ice on holy water in the font.

The death toll from the cold increased with two others discovered Saturday in the country, including a blind and mentally handicapped woman who was found on her own doorstep after apparently

## Flood-ravaged

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — 525 million dollars of California Gov. Pete Wilson asked for federal disaster aid Friday after rain-gorged rivers broke their banks, flooding hundreds of homes and forcing tens of thousands of people to flee.

This incident is of such severity and magnitude that a federal response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments," Mr. Wilson said in a letter to President Clinton asking him to declare a federal disaster area for the flood-ravaged counties.

Mr. Wilson declared a state of emergency in 12 northern and central counties because of the floods, in addition to the 25 counties where he declared an emergency Saturday. The emergency declaration now covers more than half of the state's counties.

Federal disaster declaration would allow California victims to apply for federal disaster assistance, including small business administration disaster loans and unemployment insurance benefits, among other benefits.

Mr. Wilson also asked for disaster recovery grant of

## 2 Tajik officers shot dead, Russian dies in Dushanbe car bomb blast

DUSHANBE (R) — Two Tajik officers were shot dead and a Russian serviceman was killed in a car explosion in the latest rash of violence to hit the Tajik capital Dushanbe, security sources said Saturday.

Sergei Danbak, a senior lieutenant in the Tajik Interior Ministry, and Sergeant-Major Kholmat Eshnazarov of the Defence Ministry were shot dead late Friday in separate incidents by unknown assailants, the sources said.

On Saturday an explosion ripped apart a car carrying four servicemen. One Russian from the 201st Motorised Division was killed and the three other passengers were rushed to hospital, a Tajik Interior Ministry official told Reuters.

It was not immediately

clear what device was used in the blast, which took place as the men were leaving Dushanbe's main Zelyony Bazaar.

Interfax News Agency reported that a second explosion Saturday wrecked a presidential palace but said no body was hurt in the blast.

The incidents followed a spate of attacks on Russian servicemen in the remote, war-torn former Soviet republic where they carry out peacekeeping duties and guard the border with Afghanistan.

On Friday the bodies of two Russian military medical staff were found in the street. Both had been shot in the head.

A Russian sergeant was shot dead Tuesday or Wednesday, a Tajik Interior Ministry official told Reuters.

Five servicemen were

badly wounded when their vehicle was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade and automatic weapons last Saturday and a soldier was wounded by gunmen Tuesday.

"We have to stop these terrorist acts, we have to stop these provocations," Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov told reporters Saturday.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which have been widely blamed on Islamist opposition fighters.

Tajikistan's secular government and the Islamist opposition signed an accord in Moscow last month aimed at ending four years of civil war. There have been no major clashes since the ceasefire but sporadic attacks have raised fears of further large-scale violence.

## More flee after Indonesia tribal riots

JAKARTA (R) — More people have fled to safety in Indonesia's West Kalimantan province after tribal rioting this week sparked by a fight over a woman, but no violence was reported overnight, police and residents said Saturday.

"The situation is under control and there was no report of violence overnight," one policeman told Reuters.

The policeman spoke from the coastal town of Singkawang, where people have taken refuge from the riot area in the Sanggau Ledo district, 100 kilometres away. He said the number of refugees had increased, but declined to give further details.

The riot was sparked Monday by a brawl between two groups of youths over a

woman during a concert.

Five people died, nine were injured and dozens of houses were burned during the disturbances which erupted after a man from Madura Island off the main island of Java reportedly stabbed two Dayak tribesmen in the stomach. The Dayaks are natives of Kalimantan province on Borneo Island.

The Jakarta Post newspaper said the number of people who fled to Singkawang rose to 5,678 as of Friday night from 2,680 Tuesday. It said most of the refugees were people of the Maduran ethnic group.

Residents in Singkawang said Saturday a curfew was still being imposed on there.

Kompas newspaper said residents had complained of food shortages because of

the flow of refugees. It said air force planes continued to evacuate people from the riot area to Pontianak, the provincial capital.

Earlier, the official Antara News Agency quoted Kalimantan's military commander, Major-General Namoeri Anom, as saying Thursday that six youths had been arrested on suspicion of starting the disturbances.

Last week, a mob of mainly Muslim youths set buildings and churches ablaze in the West Java town of Tasikmalaya, apparently incensed by a report of police brutality towards some Muslim religious teachers.

Four people died and 15 were injured in those riots.



By Dr. Fahed Fawzi

# State

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## Washington decries Damascus bombing as 'terrorist attack'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, responding to Syrian complaints, on Friday condemned a bus bombing in Damascus as a "terrorist attack" and offered condolences to the victims' families.

But the State Department continued to criticise Syria for accusing Israel of complicity in Tuesday's bombing, which killed nine people and wounded 44.

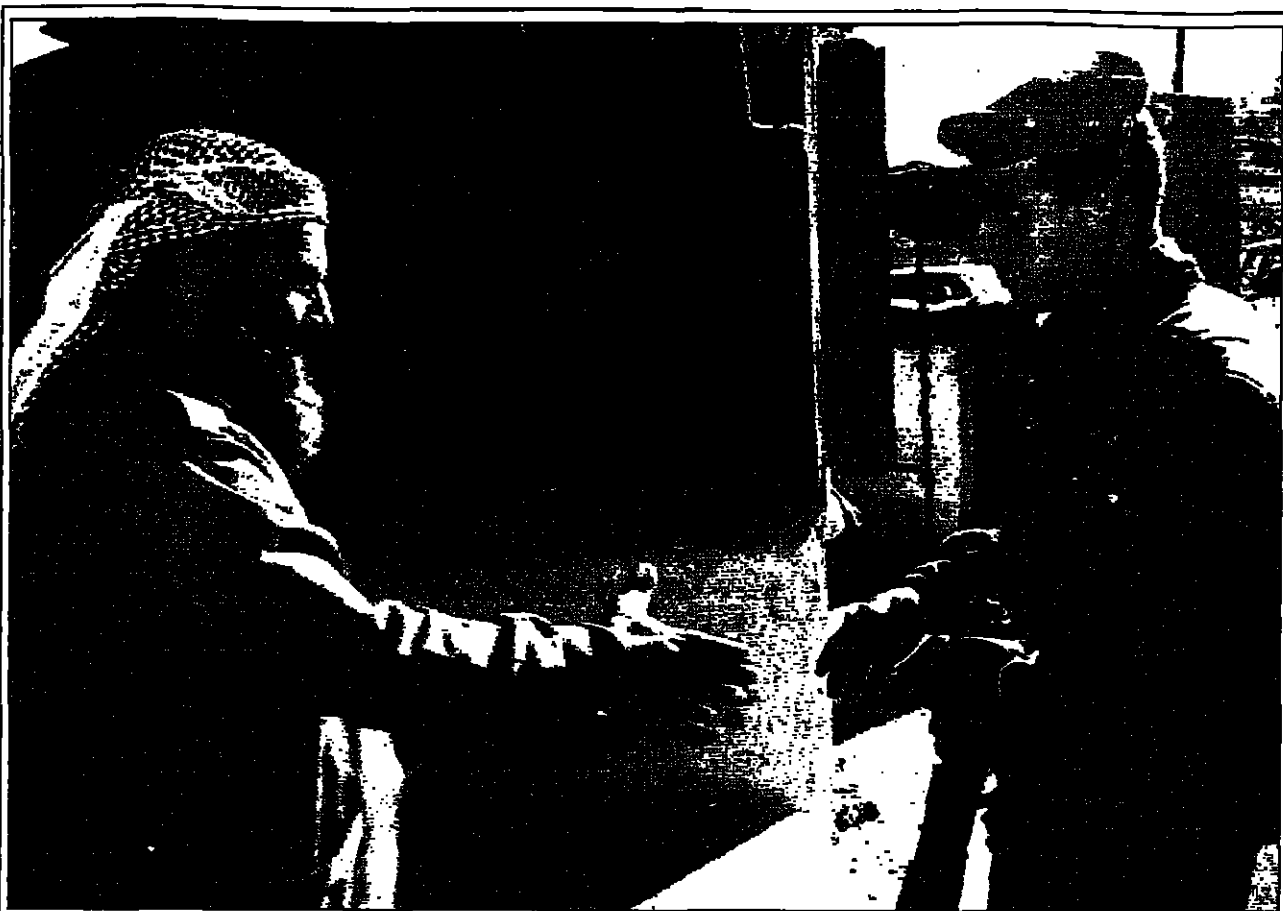
"The United States condemns this 'terrorist attack' against innocent people. And there is every reason to believe that these were innocent people on that bus — civilians who ought not have to fear for their lives when they travel around the city of Damascus," department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"And the United States extends our condolences to the families of the victims. The United States would have made this statement yesterday, had we known about the incident in any kind of detail," he said.

But on Syria's continued charges that Israel was responsible for the attack, Mr. Burns said: "It is not wise for any government to accuse another government of an act of terrorism without a foundation of evidence to support it."

"The United States is not aware of any evidence whatsoever that would link the Israeli government... to the bomb attack of a couple of days ago... or the other bombings in Damascus," he said.

He also stressed the Israeli government had condemned



REACHING OUT: The father of a wounded Palestinian boy reaches out Saturday to shake hands with Israeli army officer Avi Busloca in Hebron. The officer jumped on Noam Friedman, an Israeli soldier who opened fire on Palestinians and wounded six in the Hebron marketplace on Jan. 1, and prevented him from wounding more (AFP photo)

## Iraq again fingers Iran in attack on Uday

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq has accused Iran of sheltering those responsible for wounding the son of President Saddam Hussein and asked the United Nations for help in forcing Tehran to hand over the perpetrators.

Uday Hussein, 32, was shot by gunmen on Dec. 12 while driving his luxury car in a prosperous area of Baghdad. He has since been shown on television from his hospital bed and said four bullets were still lodged in his body.

In a letter to the Security Council, released on Friday, Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf noted that the Al Dawah exile party had claimed responsibility for the attack. The party, he said, was based in Iran.

Another Iraqi opposition group, not mentioned in his letter, has also claimed responsibility for the attack.

Mr. Sahaf asked the U.N. secretary-general's office to "intervene with the government of Iran and urge it to hand over the perpetrators of this crime so that they may be tried and punished."

"Alternatively Iran itself may try them in accordance with the rules of international law concerning terrorist activities," he said.

Uday himself, a few days after the assassination attempt, blamed Iran for the attack. Officials from Tehran have denied the charge.

Neither the United Nations nor the Security Council is expected to respond to the Iraqi request. But the letter serves to put Iraq's accusation on record at the United Nations.

The attack was at least the third attempt on the life of Uday Hussein, who owns the country's most influential newspaper and a popular television station. In the government, he carries the title of chairman of Iraq's Olympic Committee.

An outspoken figure in Baghdad, he is believed to have made many enemies. He was briefly exiled from Iraq in 1988 for killing his father's bodyguard.

### Iraq sees better U.S. ties

Iraq and the United States, at loggerheads since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, will take their first steps towards normalising relations in 1997, an official Iraqi daily predicted Saturday.

"President (Bill) Clinton and his experts are studying alternative ways to deal with Iraq," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said.

"The year 1997 will see the first steps towards normalisation with the United States and this will translate into a resumption of American trade activity with Iraq."

"The authorisation given by the United States to its oil companies to buy Iraqi crude and the removal of its agents and collaborators from northern Iraq clearly show that (Washington) is leaning towards normalisation with Baghdad," it said.

The United States headed the multinational coalition which dislodged Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991. Iraq severed diplomatic relations with the United States shortly after the start of the Gulf war.

Al Jumhuriyah said it expects in 1997 to see "Washington give the Security Council greater freedom to decide on lifting the (economic) embargo" imposed on Iraq for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The U.N. Security Council decided Tuesday to maintain international sanctions against Iraq for failing to comply with U.N. resolutions.

The 15-member Security Council reviews the matter every two months.

The sanctions review does not affect an oil-for-food arrangement which began in December and enables Iraq to export limited quantities of oil in return for humanitarian supplies.

## Jordan is confident of future, Kabariti tells Ajloun residents

(Continued from page 1)

farmers by the Agricultural Credit Corporation as grants, especially those farmers whose lands were damaged by snowstorms in 1993.

Accompanying Mr. Kabariti on the visit were the ministers of public works and housing, post and communications, water and irrigation, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, health, culture and youth.

Before addressing the rally Mr. Kabariti inaugurated the new premises of the governor's offices and listened to the governor outlining the general, social and economic situation in the Ajloun region.

## Arafat: Israel must make further commitments

(Continued from page 1)

National Authority.

"We are calling for a clear commitment by the Israelis not only in principle, but also on the dates and the schedule and the timing that have been clearly specified in the interim agreement," Mr. Shaath added.

Marathon efforts by Mr. Dennis Ross had raised the prospects of an accord on Hebron by the New Year, but hopes were fading on Saturday for a quick agreement.

Mr. Ross told reporters late Friday that "serious efforts" were still needed, as two sides also face disagreement on security measures for Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque.

But the U.S. envoy came under criticism from the Palestinians on Saturday who said he was partial to the Israelis.

"We are facing big problems in the negotiations, from the Israeli side and sometimes from the American sponsor, who want it believed that we are responsible for stalled negotiations and that we are creating new problems," Mr. Shaath told reporters.

"Most of the time, they (the Americans) adopt a position that is close to the Israelis," which makes it difficult to reach an accord," he said.

Mr. Arafat also rejected Israeli charges that he was making new demands which were complicating an agreement on Hebron. The delay over signing an accord on Hebron is not because of Palestinian hard-headedness or a desire to raise new issues not included in the 1995 accord.

The shooting rampage by an Israeli soldier that injured six Palestinians in a Hebron market on Wednesday has boosted Mr. Arafat's demands that the city's Palestinian population be better protected from Jewish extremists. But Mr. Netanyahu also is facing opposition from right-wing elements in his own government to get stringent security guarantees for 400 Jewish settlers living in an enclave among Hebron's 120,000 Palestinians.

Mr. Netanyahu is facing growing political pressure within

## Trade fair opening delayed

(Continued from page 12)

hope for economic benefits of the peace process while he continues to refuse to acknowledge and respect Palestinian rights.

The government asserts that trade fairs, whether Israeli or otherwise, are the affairs of the private sector and points out that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty

provides for trade ties between the two countries. As such, officials say, the government has left it to the private sector to do whatever it finds fit to develop trade with Israel.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade said early this month that it had issued neither a permit nor a refusal for the event, which, it added, was beyond its realm and jurisdiction anyway.

An unsigned editorial in the mass-circulation Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday called on the government to cancel the event.

"Despite the public opposition and outrage against the exhibition, the organisers are going ahead with the event," it noted, adding that the government's stand on the issue was not understandable because it was

## Israel continues air raids on S. Lebanon

SIDON (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes fired missiles at suspected guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon on Saturday after militiamen attacked an Israeli patrol, security officials said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The raids came a day after Israeli jets staged a dozen bombing runs in retaliation for a guerrilla attack on three Israeli army outposts in South Lebanon. Two Israeli soldiers and three guerrillas were reported wounded in Friday's fighting.

Saturday's raids came just 15 minutes after Hizbollah guerrillas raked an armoured Israeli patrol near the Lebanese-Israeli border with rocket and machine-gun fire, the security officials said.

A Hizbollah statement said the guerrillas scored "direct hits" in the attack on the 15-member Israeli patrol.

In Israel, the military said there were no Israeli casualties as a result of the attack. Israeli warplanes responded with three bombing runs starting at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) on suspected Hizbollah hideouts in villages in the highlands of Iqlim Al Tuffah, according to the militia and the security officials.

The warplanes fired two air-to-surface missiles in each sortie, they said.

Witnesses said Hizbollah guerrillas fired at least one surface-to-air missile at the raiding jets, but no hits were reported.

All spoke on condition their names not be used.

Hizbollah is fighting to drive Israeli forces out of Lebanon.

Hizbollah, meanwhile, said it launched two attacks against Israeli forces in the central part of the occupied zone on Saturday, firing machine guns and anti-tank rockets at a 15-member army patrol.

The group said it also shelled a main access road in the central part of zone, with security sources in the area confirming that about 15 shells had landed.

## Ministers head for Iraq Jan. 8

(Continued from page 1)

Abul Ragheb visits Baghdad. Dr. Muasher said, adding technical experts were finalising the deal.

"Meanwhile a team of Jordanian businessmen left for Baghdad on Friday to discuss export orders under Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations as well as outside the deal, officials said."

"The visit is a continuation of contacts between the Jordanian private sector on the one hand and the Iraqi government and businessmen on the other," said a source at the Amman Chamber of Industry, whose President, Khalid Abu Hassan, is leading the delegation.

"The delegation will discuss issues that were raised during the visit of the ministerial team last week and focus on areas where the private sector is involved," added the source, who did not want to be identified.

Dr. Muasher said Friday he was "not aware of any problem" holding up the renewing of the oil agreement, which is tied with the trade protocol. He said "certain technical details" remained to be sorted out in the agreement.

"Technical experts from the two sides are working on the details," he said.

Iraqi newspapers said Thursday that Mr. Abul Ragheb and Mr. Lawzi

## Damascus death toll goes up

(Continued from page 1)

and those who commit them.

Mr. Musa expressed his hope that "stability reigns in Syria because such acts open the door to numerous ripples and reactions."

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, echoing Syrian charges, blamed Israel for the bomb blast.

Mr. Hariri, after meeting French President Chirac in Paris, told reporters: "Obviously, what happened in Damascus is a crime. Lebanon condemns it... Israel is behind (the blast)."

He did not elaborate.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) denounced the bombing and said the incident would not affect

## Rebels reject Fujimori's stand

(Continued from page 1)

days of extended negotiations.

Red Cross chief Michel Minnig, who has been acting as mediator in the standoff, did not appear at the residence compound, nor did Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani — who appears to have brokered some hostage releases. The two sides were likely deciding on their next step, said Cynthia McClintock, a Peru specialist with George Washington University in Washington, DC.

"My sense is that for all the practical reasons, Mr. Fujimori has got to get out of this without bloodshed. This is not easy," she said in a telephone interview. "It's a lot to expect for the government and Tupac Amaru to make (negotiating) decisions in a matter of hours."

Japan, which has given more than \$756 million in grants and loans to Peru in five years, has insisted that the hostages' safety must remain the top priority while Peru's military is reportedly eager to use force.

## slide



## Egypt disowns letter bombs

(Continued from page 1)

serving a life sentence.

Three of the men convicted with the sheikh are inmates at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, where two of the letter bombs were found.

A third letter bomb — also addressed to the "parole officer" at the prison — was found Friday at the Leavenworth post office. The other five letter bombs went to Al Hayat.

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said on Friday that Washington had contacted the Egyptian government and had "its full cooperation."

The State Department has also advised its embassies and consulates abroad to review their security measures, particularly mail and package screening procedures. Mr. Burns said.

## Trade fair opening delayed

(Continued from page 12)

provides for trade ties between the two countries. As such, officials say, the government has left it to the private sector to do whatever it finds fit to develop trade with Israel.

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## Terror must not win

JORDAN'S CONDEMNATION of the terrorist attack on a Syrian bus on New Year's Eve that resulted in the death and injury of 50 innocent civilians was swift and appropriate. Both His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti expressed Jordan's strong condemnation of the heinous act against innocent Syrians. Prince Hassan said in a cable to President Hafez Assad that Jordanians "felt outrage and repulsion over the criminal act that has targeted innocent lives."

Prime Minister Kabariti aptly added that Jordan viewed its own security as affected whenever any part of the Arab Nation is threatened. Whatever harms Syria hurts Jordan as well, the prime minister said in a cable of condolences to his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zoubi.

This expression of solidarity with Syria emanates from the deep belief that Jordan and Syria share a common destiny and any act that disturbs the security and stability of one naturally affects the security and stability of the other.

Terrorism anywhere in the region can only contribute to a volatile situation that threatens to explode any moment. While we find it very difficult to point the finger at any party at this stage, the possible culprits are few. It is well-known that certain countries accuse Syria of supporting certain groups of terrorists and any of those countries might either want to get revenge or destabilise the security of Syria. But terrorism will not pay. It can only trigger a cycle of revenge and counter-revenge, which is the thing the enemies of peace savour most.

We trust therefore that Syria, while seeking to swiftly bring to justice those responsible for the cowardly attack, will refrain from taking any action that would aggravate the situation. When those responsible are brought to the fore it becomes the responsibility of the international community to censure the guilty party.

Terrorism never paid and will never do. And no matter what grievances some might cite to legitimise it, it is an evil that must be fought by all means and all people.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Saturday said that the efforts of the U.S. envoy in the Middle East are not sufficient to end the tension and achieve a lasting peace. Mahmoud Rimawi said that Dennis Ross has been talking to the Palestinians and the Israelis but not taking a firm stand to stop the Israelis from committing criminal acts like the one which occurred in Hebron. Washington can and should put an end to Israel's provocations that threaten the whole peace process and stop Israel from maintaining its settlements which are the root cause of all tension, demanded the writer. Furthermore, he said, since the beginning of 1997, Israel has been active in creating tension not only in Palestine, through the settlers, but also in Syria, through its agents who are behind the bus explosion in Damascus, and against Lebanon, in the form of air raids. The writer said that no peace can be achieved in a tense atmosphere and as long as the Israeli government is encouraging the settlers to pursue their aggression against the Palestinians, as long as this government continues to build settlements on Arab-owned lands and as long as the Jewish state pursues its aggression on the Arab states in different forms and means, the peace process does not stand a chance.

A WRITER for Al Dustour discussed the one-person, one-vote election system and said that the government realises that the majority of the people in Jordan rejects this system which came as a temporary law in 1993. Saleh Qallab said that this system is not fair and does not cater to the requirements of the democratic process but, regrettably, the government is holding on to this obsolete system. It is not a shame for the government to retreat from its position and it is not late to do that and to respond to the desires of the public and respond to the requirements of true democracy, said the writer. He said that it is a mystery to see the government insist on the present system, against the desires and aspirations of the Jordanians who, if asked in a general referendum, will definitely express their rejection of this system outright. The writer said perhaps the government had introduced the one-person, one-vote system in order to ensure that parliament approves the peace treaty with Israel. Now that the treaty has been ratified and is in force, there can be no reason for procrastination and for this system to exist anymore.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# It is time to end the welfare state

IN JORDAN'S overall economic policy an irrevocable decision has been made to put to rest the policy of across-the-board subsidies which means offering a commodity or a service for the general public at less than its economic cost.

From now on, the possible and acceptable subsidy is that which is temporary in nature and targeted specifically to the needy, which are estimated to form 20 per cent of the population, or 900,000 persons in 140,000 families, and which, with some effort, could be identified.

Looking at both the previous and the present subsidies, we find that by far the most important, and sensitive, is the bread subsidy. Since the government finally got the courage to deal with the bread subsidy, notwithstanding the difficulty of such a decision or its high political and social costs, it becomes evident that the government will not hesitate to abolish all remaining forms of generalised subsidies, be they related to fodder, university fees, price of water or cement, or any other commodity.

Some of our university student did not yet realise this simple fact; they demonstrated against rising fees, which

represent less than one third of the actual cost of their education. Their action is like swimming hard against the trend. It is doomed to fail. What can be accepted and justified from now on is support for no more than 20 per cent of the students, who come from poor families and consequently cannot afford the fees. The rest of the students, especially those who drive fine cars, should pay for their high education. They have no right to continue to be a burden on the society, which has other priorities to worry about.

If it is true that the government is in the process of reducing the price of bread by 10 per cent, as of this month, it should be clear that such decrease is taken in recognition of the reduction of prices of wheat in the world market. It is definitely not taken out of pity for the consumers.

Bread price reduction is not, and should not be presented as, a favour granted to the people. It is simply a right, as much as paying the high prices of bread during the last five months was a duty. Raising the price of bread last August, due to higher cost of imported wheat, was not an offence directed at people. Likewise, the lowering of bread

prices due to a decline of prices in international markets is not a favour but an acknowledgement of a market fact.

It is high time to inform our people that the era of welfare state is over. Consumers should realise that they cannot continue to be a burden for the government until such time when Jordan becomes an oil-exporting country.

In the past, the Jordanian government used to distribute favours right and left. They were financed by external loans and Arab and foreign aid and grants. Those sources have dried up. Whatever the government may provide now is mostly at the expense of the taxpayers. Under these circumstances, we can tolerate helping the poor and the needy, but not everybody.

He who provides subsidies from his own money is free to do it as he pleases and earn our thanks, but he who wants to subsidise by using public funds and taxpayers' money should be held accountable.

Let us face it. Subsidies in the Third World are used as political tools to buy loyalty and consent. It is a form of corruption. It belongs to the past. Loud voices and demonstrations to perpetuate corruption will not work.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Ireland: The inner play

By Gwynne Dyer

"I have never been at an IRA meeting when Loyalist violence was seriously discussed as a problem. The IRA actually like it. They believe that any shot fired by a Loyalist destabilises society and erodes the fabric of authority. And if innocent Catholics get killed, the Provos aren't bothered."

WHAT WAS predicted in October by Sean O'Callaghan, a former senior officer in the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA or "Provos") now serving a life sentence in prison, has now come to pass. He believed that the IRA, having abandoned its own ceasefire, would go to any lengths to provoke the "Loyalists", the Protestant paramilitaries of Northern Ireland, to return to terrorist violence as well. And now they have succeeded.

The IRA, the oldest and perhaps the most calculating guerrilla organisation

on the planet, has been setting off bombs in England ever since it broke its 17-month ceasefire last February, but the Loyalist paramilitaries, its Protestant counterparts, had refused to take the bait. So in October, the IRA started bombing again in Northern Ireland itself, exploding a pair of huge car bombs at the British army headquarters at Lisburn.

One British soldier was killed, but Loyalist self-discipline held, so the IRA planted another massive car-bomb outside the headquarters in Londonderry on Nov. 21. That one was found and defused, and still the Loyalist ceasefire remained intact. It was beginning to pose a serious public relations problem for the IRA: if the Protestants did not murder people too, the IRA would start to look unreasonable.

Which is why on Dec. 20, IRA gunmen attacked a Protestant politician, Nigel Dodds, as he and his wife were visiting their son in the intensive care ward of

the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Belfast. The IRA later claimed that the target of the attack had been Dodd's police guards, but that hardly changed the fact that it deliberately chose a children's hospital to maximise the sense of outrage among Protestants.

This time, the provocation worked. On Dec. 22, one of the Protestant paramilitaries (whether the Ulster Volunteer Force or the Ulster Freedom Fighters is not yet clear) planted a small bomb under the car of Eddie Copeland, a leading IRA supporter in Belfast.

It was the smallest counter-attack they could organise: tightly focused on a "legitimate target" and using such a small amount of explosive that Copeland survived (though with serious leg injuries). Nevertheless, the 24-month Loyalist ceasefire has now been broken as well, and Northern Ireland is drifting back into the kind of chronic sectarian killing that blighted its existence from

1969 until late 1994. Or is it? That depends on whether the IRA is really as clever as it thinks it is.

The traditional IRA strategy was to wear down the British by terrorism until they reneged on their promise to respect the wish of the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland to stay in the United Kingdom. Then, after the British pulled out, the IRA would have to win the civil war that ensued in Northern Ireland (Armageddon, in local parlance) — which in practice required dragging the millions of Catholics in the Irish Republic into the fighting to make up for Catholics' minority status in the North.

This traditional end-game certainly continues to be one of the IRA's strategic options: it has been in business for over 80 years now, and it has developed the habit of thinking long-term. But in the past couple of years it has also been exploring another possible strategy, in which British war-weariness leads to a

deal in which Britain itself forces northern Irish Protestants to accept a new all-Ireland political framework — and then leaves.

The IRA's organisation was sorely in need of a rest anyway, so they decided to give it a try: in September 1994, the IRA declared a unilateral ceasefire. However, the British government under Prime Minister John Major showed no sign of willingness to force Northern Ireland's Protestant majority into a deal, so last February, the IRA went back to bombing. But bombing with a difference.

The purpose of the bombing was still to wear the British down, but more urgently to get the Loyalists back to violence. For the IRA itself is very tired, and it is now betting quite a lot on the forthcoming election in Britain.

Within the next six months, Britain is likely to elect a Labour government under Tony Blair. Labour governments are always uneasy about violence, and

unlike the Conservatives Labour has no close links with Ulster Protestant political leaders. So the IRA will bomb to maximum effect right up to the election date — and then offer a ceasefire that it thinks will prove irresistible to a new Labour government.

Unless the Loyalists are alert and very fast, they will suddenly find themselves the guilty party in the first days of a new Labour government, the only ones still committed to violence when the IRA has once again promised to stop the bombing and murder. And if the IRA can isolate them that way, it might get a good deal of what it wants.

That is the strategy, and it positively requires some more bombing and killing at the moment. Will it achieve its desired results? Probably not, since it also requires purling stupidity on the part of both London and the Ulster Loyalists in order to succeed. But with a British election coming up, the IRA clearly thinks it is worth a try.

# How to stop the Middle East slide

By Flora Lewis

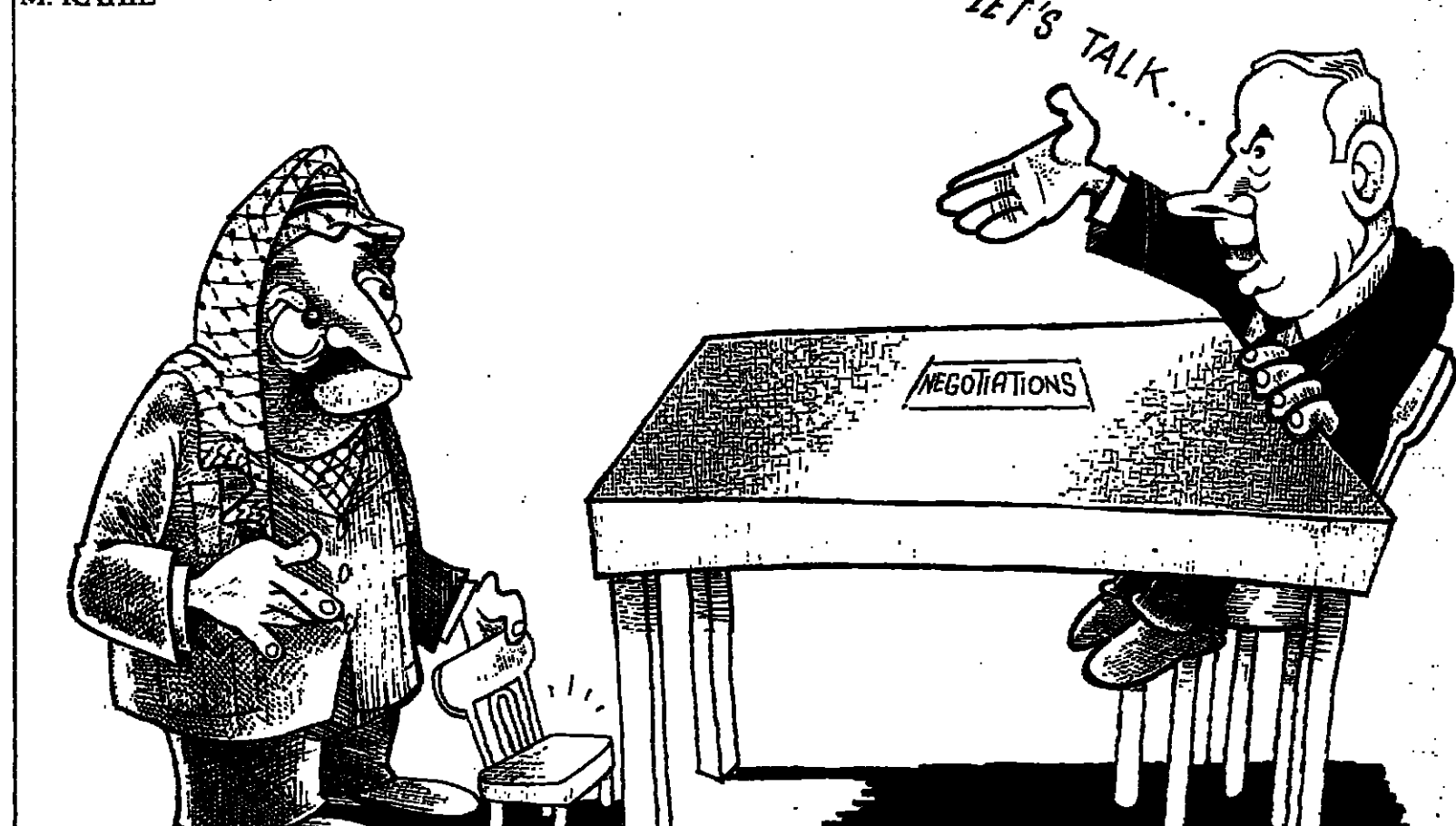
PARIS — It takes stubborn optimism and a firm faith in reason to reject the contention of many involved that the Middle East peace process has crashed. But clearly, momentum has gone and crisis is brewing. No one actually seems to be planning another war, according to an experienced and competent Israeli source, despite recent, massive Syrian troop movements that were countered by Israeli movements and quiet diplomacy. But in the soured climate, he sees an increased danger of unplanned escalation to war from a terrorist attack and Israeli retaliation.

As usual, people on the ground sigh in despair and look to Washington to "do something." It is true that U.S. involvement has been critical at each step so far towards resolution of the long Middle East conflict. But it is also true that has only worked when the antagonists were prepared to move, and especially when one took the initiative, like Anwar Sadat's electrifying trip to Jerusalem and Shimon Peres's secret launch of the Oslo talks with Yitzhak Rabin's acquiescence.

Some dramatic gesture, some clear decision is needed now to break the spiral of mutual accusation and ill will. It isn't obvious who might do it, perhaps President Ezer Weizman of Israel, a tough air force veteran who has a good reputation for straightforwardness in the Arab World.

The Israeli presidency is essentially a non-political, ceremonial post and Mr. Weizman holds to his obligation to be "president of all Israelis" and not interfere in political issues. But he could find it his responsibility solemnly to warn his countrymen of the dangers ahead if they allow the chance for peace to fade away.

M. KAHIL



Israeli society is more sharply at odds with itself than it has ever been. Israel Shahak, a commentator who would be ranked as a dove in the outmoded jargon, writes: "It is by no means conceded by all Israeli observers that Israeli Jews are divided into two parts, nicknamed Israel A and Israel B." Between them, he says, "there exists a strong and increasing enmity."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leads "Israel B," though he has fierce and bitter critics on his own side as well, people who are capable of violence. But after six months in office, it can no longer be said that he is settling in and organising his administration. He has convinced virtually all Arabs and a lot of "Israel A" that he is against any conceivable compromise for peace. Many think he is primarily

manoeuvring to put the blame for an open breakdown on the Arab side. The Arab reaction — of Palestinians, Egyptians, even Jordanians and others further away — has been an emotional reversion to the idea that there's no dealing with Israel.

"He (Netanyahu) has convinced virtually all Arabs and a lot of 'Israel A' that he is against any conceivable compromise for peace. Many think he is primarily manoeuvring to put the blame for an open breakdown on the Arab side"

At the recent Cairo economic meeting, an Egyptian businessman told a former Israeli intelligence official that he had developed great prospects for his

agricultural export company with the help of Israeli experts. But even though it would hurt his business, he was sending them all away because of current Israeli policies.

That is a widespread feeling in Egypt, where the press remains hostile to

Israel. Moderates, who were counting on peace, do not stop to think that by denouncing all Israelis they only bolster the arguments of Israeli nationalists that

Arabs cannot be trusted and are not sincere in accepting Israel's existence. Once again, the extremes reinforce each other.

It is urgent for the moderates to offer mutual support, to de-demonise their counterparts and recognise possible partners so as to marginalise the dedicated enemies. Some influential adherents of "Israel A" are trying to organise such a movement, outside of government, through the business community, cultural figures, professionals. But that is slow work and relations are deteriorating rapidly.

The Egyptian government could do much better on helping. It has not understood that its coldness and pressure do not drive Israel to concessions but only reinforce those who claim compromise brings no benefit.

The United States can and should do more to encourage willing cooperators and to help formulate their common expectations.

Washington's modest approval of Mr. Netanyahu's plans to enlarge settlements will not affect much. A clear and firm statement is needed of what the United States expects its support to achieve.

Many could contribute. It is hard to see who will be effective and during enough. It is easy to see that this is one of those slippery slopes that occupy historians trying to figure out how disaster might have been prevented, whether it was inevitable. Without prevention now, there is not much hope for cure. So much has been achieved, there is so much to lose.

The New York Times

## Washington Damascus as 'terroris'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, responding to Syrian complaints, on Friday condemned a bus bombing in Damascus as a "terrorist attack" and offered condolences to the victims' families.

But the State Department continued to criticise Syria for accusing Israel of complicity in Tuesday's bombing, which killed nine people and wounded 44.

"The United States condemns this terrorist attack against innocent people. And there is every reason to believe that these were innocent people on that bus who were travelling around the city of Damascus," the department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

And the United States extends our condolences to the families of the victims. The United States would have made this statement yesterday, had we known about the incident in any detail," he said.

But on Syria's continued charges that Israel was responsible for the attack, Mr Burns said "It is not for any government to accuse another government of an act of terrorism without a foundation of evidence to support it."

"The United States is not aware of any evidence whatsoever that would link the Israeli government... to the bus attack of a couple of days ago... or the other bombings in Damascus," he said.

He also stressed the Israeli government had condemned

## Clinton is seen e panel on Gulf w

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton will likely announce on Tuesday a decision to extend a presidential commission investigating illnesses affecting U.S. troops who fought in the 1991 Gulf war, an administration official said.

The panel submitted its report to Mr Clinton on Dec. 31 and he has been reviewing it while on vacation on the U.S. Virgin Islands. The report is due to be made public on Tuesday. A U.S. Official told Reuters on Friday that members of the panel would be asked to continue their work, although this was not intended as a criticism of the defence department.

"I think it will be extended a bit, but it is in no way intended to impugn the integrity of the Pentagon," the official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said members of the panel included some Pentagon officials and the committee was working "hand in glove" with military officials investigating widespread complaints by Gulf war veterans of illnesses that many feared were linked to exposure to biological and chemical weapons.

The Pentagon has said it

## Egypt disowns lett

(Continued from page 1)

nons. Government security officials said Saturday that Egypt has asked the U.S. government for the envelopes that carried the bombs to check if the stamps and postmarks were authentic. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

U.S. investigators are pursuing a theory that the bomb-laden cards were mailed by followers of a radical Egyptian Sheikh, Omar Abdul Rahman. Sheikh Abdul Rahman and nine of his followers were convicted in 1995 of sedition conspiracy and other charges related to a plot to blow up New York buildings. The cleric also was convicted of plotting to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He is



# Saudis see lower oil prices in '97

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia expects oil prices to be firm in 1997 but not as strong as they were in 1996, when they shot up to their highest level in nearly 13 years, economists said Saturday.

Although the world's biggest oil producer and exporter projected high revenues in 1997, the forecast is lower than the actual 1996 earnings which reached around 177 billion Saudi riyals (\$47.2 billion).

"The Saudi government assumed an oil price of more than \$16 in its 1997 budget," it compares with a projected \$14.50 price in the 1996 budget, a Saudi economist told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

"But they are below the actual oil price of around \$20 recorded last year. This means the Saudis expect lower oil prices this year."

Announcing the budget for calendar 1997 last week, the Saudi finance ministry forecast revenues

at 164 billion riyals (\$43.7 billion), far higher than the 131 billion riyals (\$33.1 billion) forecast for 1996.

The ministry said the better projections this year were due to an expected increase in petrochemicals and other exports.

Economists said Saudi Arabia boosted projected expenditure this year after it was encouraged by strong oil prices and an extra income of more than \$8 billion it reaped from higher crude prices last year.

Spending was put at 181 billion riyals (\$48.2 billion) compared with a forecast of \$40 billion in 1996. But the Gulf kingdom again over-shot spending to pay outstanding debt to local farmers and contractors and replenish its overseas reserves that have been eroded by the Gulf War costs.

Saudi Arabia produces eight million barrels per day (bpd) of oil under an OPEC-assigned quota but

nearly 6.5 million bpd are exported. This means a \$1 rise in oil prices fetches it an extra \$6.5 million a day.

Bankers had expected its 1996 budget deficit of \$4.9 billion to be sharply cut or even disappear because of a \$3 rise in oil prices and more than \$5 price increase over its assumed level.

But Riyadh said the actual deficit was slightly trimmed to 17 billion riyals (\$4.5 billion) because of overspending.

The bulk of the increase in spending last year was used in paying arrears to local contractors and farmers as well as in current expenditure, including wages and investment in some services. Some of the funds went to the international reserves but the amount was not big. The reserves have not increased sharply over the past few months.

Bankers said Saudi Arabia paid more than \$5 billion in arrears over the past

18 months and was expected to pay more this year. But they noted the size of payments depended on the movement of oil prices through the year.

Riyadh has not published figures on its internal debt but the Manama-based Arab Banking Corporation put it at \$19.6 billion in early 1995.

Saudi Arabia this year forecast a shortfall of \$4.5 billion and officials said they expected the budget to regain balance gradually by 2000. They referred to a gradual decline in the deficit over the past few years.

It exceeded \$10 billion in 1994 and hit an all-time high of around \$31.6 billion in 1991, when the kingdom contributed more than \$50 billion to finance a U.S.-dominated international alliance that ejected Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait after seven months of occupation.

## Kuwait can boost foreign portfolio — KIA

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will be able to boost its overseas investments for the first time in years thanks to higher oil prices and the earnings from its fledgling privatisation plan, a senior official has said.

"Improvement in some national economy indicators... would enable the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), for the first time in several years, to increase funds invested in the future generations reserve," KIA Director General Ali Al Bader told a seminar on the Gulf state's privatisation plan.

"State oil revenue has improved due to increased global oil prices, public spending has been reduced — although it was a little reduction — decreasing the state budget deficit, and revenue from privatisation rose," Mr. Bader explained.

The budget deficit has been eroding its future generations reserve, an overseas nest-egg designed to support the desert state

when its main revenue earner, oil, runs out.

The reserve, once estimated at \$100 billion, fell to about \$35 billion chiefly due to the costs of the 1991 Gulf war, which ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Higher-than-expected oil prices helped Kuwait slash to 653 million dinars (\$2.2 billion) a projected 1.32 billion dinar deficit in the 1995/96 fiscal year which ended in June.

Firm oil prices helped it raise gross domestic product at current prices by 8.2 per cent to 7,952 million dinars in 1995. There is no official projection as yet for 1996 GDP.

Inflation in 1996 is privately estimated at three per cent.

State revenue from privatisation is some 650 million dinars so far, KIA, which oversees the programme, has sold its stakes in 17 Kuwait firms.

Last month, Kuwait finished repaying a \$5.5 bil-

lion sovereign loan without having to sell any of its foreign assets.

However, Mr. Bader warned that current economic health needs to be supported by structural economic reform.

"An increase in world oil prices is an improvement whose continuation cannot be guaranteed. Such good results should not create an atmosphere of relaxation among us. Economic reform and restructuring should be continued with enthusiasm," he said.

"Especially moving forward in privatising the rest of the state's stake in local firms, and... to strongly launch the privatisation of general economic activities run by the state."

The privatisation plan aims at selling the state's stake in about 60 firms and preparing for a second and more difficult phase to shed state involvement in some public services such as water, electricity and telecommunications.

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can get creative idea across during the daytime today, however don't go off on any silly tangents which could cause you difficulties. Later this evening you can get together with close friends for some fun times.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Make the right arrangements at home today which are vital to your welfare. Don't neglect good friends or you could find them scarce when you truly need them. Later tonight you can go out on the town with your loved ones.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You can acquire the data you need with relative ease today for any project which needs your attention. Avoid an irritable fellow associate who has a grudge on his/her shoulder. Have a nice quiet evening with your mate.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You know how to make your property more valuable today, so carry through with your ideas and make them a reality. Later this evening will be good for you to meet with fellow associates and make a new plan of action.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get an early start today on pleasurable activities and put career activities aside which you do not like. Be with your best friends later this evening and make plans to have a wonderful time together with them.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Have a delightful day today with the one you love and show as much affection as is possible. Don't be disappointed and spoil your judgment pertaining to business activities and thereby you can make this day successful.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Being with fine friends can make this a happy day today for you and them so take advantage of the situation. Avoid difficulties in the evening tonight and thereby you can proceed with any projects which need your attention.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get out to the world today and improve your position with persons who count in your life. Go after a favour which was promised to you by a fellow associate and you make your business activities quite successful.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You want to go off in new directions today, however you should wait until a more opportune moment. Don't get into any outside disagreements with fellow associates or you could regret the outcome.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Follow your hunches today and you get the right picture for the days ahead. Romantic life can be fine so long as you are appreciative of your mate and show him or her some measure of your affection which will be desired.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Stay your home today and improve things with so that they are more as you desire. Await a better day to gain aims you desire or you could find yourself in quite a dilemma which could be a difficult situation to resolve.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get your attitude more as you want it to be today and you can make it more cheerful for guests and those who reside there. Wrap gifts for some special occasion today and they will be much appreciated by the recipient.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

## OECD says 'credible' deficit-cutting plans will reduce immediate risks

PARIS (AFP) — Robust U.S. expansion and continued recovery in Japan and Europe after a 1996 "pause" should keep OECD area low-inflation growth at current rates this year with some acceleration in 1998, the OECD has said.

The 28-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said growth has become more balanced across OECD countries, helped by lower interest rates and broadly supportive financial market trends, in particular a somewhat stronger dollar and a weaker yen.

In a resolutely upbeat assessment of prospects, the OECD said the economic situation, marked by sharply lower inflation, was set to continue improving throughout the area, although high unemployment would remain a "major problem" in Europe.

And it strongly reaffirmed that continued efforts to cut budget deficits and public debt remained essential in most OECD countries, as well as wide-ranging structural reforms to secure more

efficient use of scarce public resources.

Growth in the European Union (EU) would not suffice to significantly reduce the EU jobless rate in 1997-98, the OECD recognised in its half-yearly Economic Outlook.

But the rate should fall off from last year's 11.4 per cent to 10.9 per cent by 1998 — nearly double the projected 5.5 per cent U.S. rate and three times Japan's 3.1 per cent.

Growth in OECD countries as a whole — not counting Korea, the newest member — was likely to continue at a moderate rate of about 2.4 per cent in 1997, rising slightly to 2.7 per cent in 1998, with inflation remaining subdued at about 1.7 per cent annually until end-1998.

The U.S. should see GDP growth of about 2.5 per cent over the next two years, slowing slightly from last year's 2.4 per cent with some assumed further monetary tightening to forestall inflation pressures.

In Japan, headed for 3.6 per cent growth in 1996 after a sharp 6.4 per cent

jump in the first half and a second-half downturn, activity should pick up in 1997 despite significant fiscal tightening. The OECD projected 1.6 per cent growth in 1997, rising to a brisk 3.7 per cent in 1998.

Emerging from a "growth pause" with activity rising barely 1.6 per cent this year, the European Union (EU) should see a pickup at rates of 2.4 per cent in 1997 and 2.7 per cent in 1998, helped by lower interest rates, improving business confidence and rising exports and investment.

The OECD saw little danger of renewed inflation in Japan and continental Europe over the next two years, but "a risk" of inflationary pressures in the U.S. and Britain where jobless rates are low or falling.

However, there were "as yet no convincing indications" of a resurgence of inflation in either country, it said.

To meet the short-term challenges, governments should work for faster non-inflationary growth of output and jobs through "judicious" use of monetary poli-

cy and continued reduction of budget deficits, the OECD said.

It said considerable progress had been made in curbing deficits in most OECD countries, except Japan where output was still depressed.

Noting that Japan is preparing to tackle the problem this year, it said a number of EU countries might have to take additional restrictive measures to meet the Maastricht target of reducing the deficits to three per cent of GDP in time for the launching of Europe's single currency.

Germany and France were likely to face deficit ratios of respectively 3.4 and 3.2 per cent this year, while Italy and Britain, the other major EU countries, were headed for 3.7 per cent, on the basis of announced actions.

The OECD acknowledged that deficit cutting implies "short-term risks" such as a potentially dampening impact on activity.

The question, it said, was whether the short-term adverse impact could be fully offset by the favourable effect on confidence and the induced easing of interest rates.

It said the answer must be "credible, sustained fiscal consolidation over time without heavy concentration of restraint in a short span of time."

### REUTERS REUTERS

#### The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates |        |        |        |        |         |        |         |         |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| Currency                       | USD    | DEM    | GBP    | CHF    | JPY     | CAD    | ITL     | NLG     | FRF    |
| US Dollar                      | 1.0000 | 1.6665 | 0.6929 | 0.7036 | 110.45  | 1.3699 | 1636.00 | 1.7369  | 6.5595 |
| DE Mark                        | 0.6034 | 1.0000 | 0.5376 | 0.5456 | 74.24   | 0.8742 | 103.48  | 1.1224  | 3.3757 |
| GB Sterling                    | 1.4563 | 1.6665 | 1.0000 | 0.8333 | 160.80  | 2.3103 | 2936.84 | 2.9664  | 8.9250 |
| CH Franc                       | 0.7356 | 0.7356 | 0.4380 | 1.0000 | 136.77  | 1.0076 | 113.20  | 1.2512  | 3.4025 |
| JP Yen                         | 0.0089 | 0.0089 | 0.0062 | 0.0073 | 1.0000  | 0.0094 | 117.15  | 0.0125  | 0.0375 |
| CA Dollar                      | 0.7356 | 0.7356 | 0.4380 | 0.5456 | 110.45  | 1.0000 | 124.56  | 1.3699  | 4.7556 |
| IT Lira                        | 0.0007 | 0.0007 | 0.0005 | 0.0006 | 0.0007  | 0.0008 | 1.0000  | 0.0009  | 0.0027 |
| NL Guilder                     | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 0.0025 | 0.0030 | 0.0036  | 0.0043 | 0.0043  | 1.0000  | 0.0078 |
| FR Franc                       | 0.1890 | 0.2859 | 0.1120 | 0.1120 | 25.6705 | 0.2588 | 33.22   | 33.2200 | 1.0000 |

| Energy |        |          |  |  |
|--------|--------|----------|--|--|
| Oil    | Last   | Previous |  |  |
| Brent  | 24.95  | 25.05    |  |  |
| WTI    | 24.50  | 24.50    |  |  |
| Bony   | 24.95  | 25.05    |  |  |
| Dubai  | 22.00  | 21.70    |  |  |
| UL Gas | 211.00 | 213.00   |  |  |

| Mid-East Currencies |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Currency            | USD    | DEM    | GBP    | CHF    |
| SA Riyal            | 0.2667 | 0.4479 | 0.1581 | 0.3625 |
| AE Dirham           | 0.2723 | 0.4568 | 0.1610 | 0.3701 |
| KW Dinar            | 3.3367 | 5.5779 | 1.9785 | 4.5721 |
| BH Dinar            | 0.3770 | 0.6284 | 0.2222 | 0.5055 |
| CY Pound            | 2.1122 | 3.5388 | 1.252  | 2.8705 |

| Metal Prices    |       |       |  |  |
|-----------------|-------|-------|--|--|
| Metal           | Bid   | Offer |  |  |
| Gold (oz)       | 351.4 | 351.9 |  |  |
| Silver (oz)     | 4.57  | 4.59  |  |  |
| Platinum (oz)   | 353.4 | 354.4 |  |  |
| AL (3 Months)   | 1552  | 1555  |  |  |
| CU (3 Months)   | 2192  | 2197  |  |  |
| ZINC (3 Months) | 1060  | 1065  |  |  |
| Lead (3 Months) | 700   | 705   |  |  |
| Ni (3 Months)   | 6500  | 6510  |  |  |

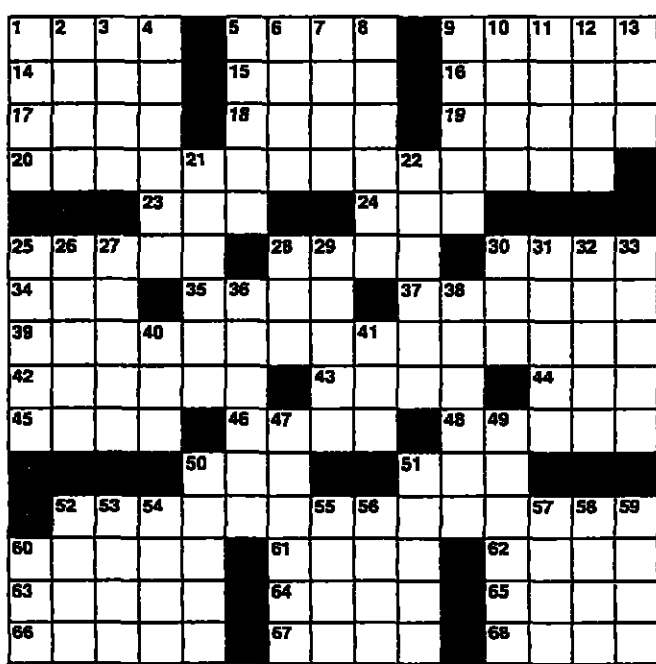
| Currency Deposit Rates (Bil) |       |        |        |      |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|------|
| Period                       | -1-   | -3-    | -6-    | -9-  |
| Cncy                         | Month | Months | Months | Year |
| USD                          | 5.37  | 5.40   | 5.53   | 5.50 |
| GBP                          | 6.12  | 6.56   | 6.55   | 6.77 |
| JPY                          | 0.25  | 0.25   | 0.31   | 0.38 |
| DEM                          | 3.02  | 2.87   | 3.72   | 3.30 |
| FRF                          | 3.27  | 3.30   | 3.18   | 3.18 |
| CHF                          | 4.56  | 4.72   | 4.72   | 4.72 |
| ITL                          | 7.44  | 7.12   | 6.80   | 6.80 |

| Main Equity Indices |            |          |       |         |
|---------------------|------------|----------|-------|---------|
| Bourse              | Index      | Value    | Chng  | High    |
| New York            | DOW JONES  | 6544.09  | 101.8 | 6545.63 |
| New York            | S&P 500    | 749.03   | 11.02 | 748.28  |
| London              | FT-SE 100  | 4089.5   | 32.1  | 4089.5  |
| Tokyo               | NIKKEI 225 | 19361.35 | -7.69 | 19391.8 |
| Paris               | CAC 40     | 2282.76  | 25.79 | 2285.40 |
| Frankfurt           | DAX        | 2859.26  | 10.51 | 2859.3  |

### THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Hold back
  - Oh my!
  - Cry of approval
  - Skirt length
  - Melville work
  - Stately
  - Whitney and Wallach
  - Fastener
  - Liqueur flavoring
  - Parental foot condition?
  - poetica
  - Fail mo.
  - Hang in folds
  - Sharpness
  - Spar
  - Feel sick
  - Japanese aborigine
  - Anticipate
  - "Middle-aged advice?"
  - Begudges
  - Penny
  - Hawaiian instrument
  - Song or game ending
  - Yearn
  - Capn and Wight
  - Wildbeest
  - Paid athlete
  - Silcom about a schnozzle?
  - Singer Lanza
  - Linda, CA
  - NV city
  - Farewell
  - Short list ending
  - Wading bird
  - Oyster find
  - Frendly
  - Sole add-ons



by Anthony R. Mupo

|      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| DOWN | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

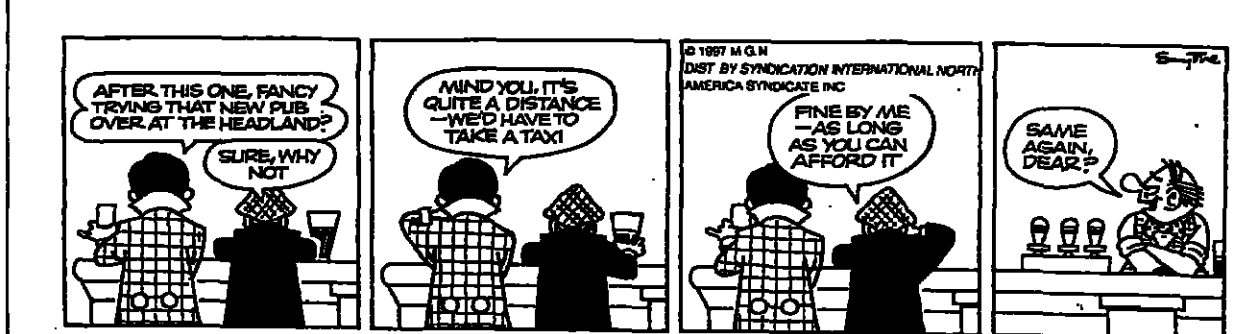
- DOWN
- Merganser
  - Anklebones
  - Way out
  - Accident
  - Germanic invaders
  - Bus or potent start
  - Spiritual part
  - Show off

|   |       |    |     |    |                  |    |                |    |                 |    |             |    |                |    |               |    |          |    |         |    |              |    |              |    |           |    |      |    |             |    |         |    |          |    |          |    |           |    |      |    |            |    |      |    |             |    |             |    |           |    |               |    |       |    |      |    |         |    |                |    |           |    |       |    |                    |
|---|-------|----|-----|----|------------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|----------------|----|---------------|----|----------|----|---------|----|--------------|----|--------------|----|-----------|----|------|----|-------------|----|---------|----|----------|----|----------|----|-----------|----|------|----|------------|----|------|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|-------|----|------|----|---------|----|----------------|----|-----------|----|-------|----|--------------------|
| 9 | Goose | 10 | Let | 11 | Exchange premium | 12 | Open container | 13 | Bullfight cheer | 14 | Bring about | 15 | "The — Cometh" | 16 | Coolidge V.P. | 17 | Laughing | 18 | Vibrant | 19 | Rocker Brian | 20 | Door or oven | 21 | Welcome — | 22 | Void | 23 | Feed a fire | 24 | Carries | 25 | Maniacal | 26 | Complete | 27 | Gentleman | 28 | Tiny | 29 | Shore bird | 30 | Amen | 31 | Evil spirit | 32 | Sacred song | 33 | Disappear | 34 | Operatic solo | 35 | Level | 36 | bone | 37 | Khayyam | 38 | Italian island | 39 | Pass over | 40 | Pitch | 41 | Schoolroom hanging |
|---|-------|----|-----|----|------------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|----------------|----|---------------|----|----------|----|---------|----|--------------|----|--------------|----|-----------|----|------|----|-------------|----|---------|----|----------|----|----------|----|-----------|----|------|----|------------|----|------|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|-------|----|------|----|---------|----|----------------|----|-----------|----|-------|----|--------------------|

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n' Jeff



## BritishBank chief

foreign interest in

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign investors have increased their interest in the parallel and regular markets of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) in December 1996, according to John Basco, the executive president of the British Bank.

Mr. Basco said that the AFM opened the doors to foreign investors in December last year and pointed out that the AFM was the only

## Shair asks companies

financial statements

WAHAB SHAIR, the director of Amman Financial Market (AFM) public shareholding companies, annual and semi-annual balance sheet in the English language. He should include the auditor's report.

The AFM chief requested that should start by the 1996 balance sheet, which is a high degree of credibility.

This move was taken within the AFM's accurate information about shareholding companies to meet foreign investors at the AFM.

In this regard, Mr. Shair has received 10.28 million of trading volume during November 1996, 38 million during November 1995, a 12 per cent increase, he noted.

According to AFM statistics the AFM during November 1996 had 15.98 million of which 12.6 million investors and five per cent was for the January-November period.

Volume of trade at both the regular and parallel markets amounted to JD197.62 million-Jordanian Arab of the total whereas the foreign share stood at JD1.1 million.

## Investments reach JD1.1 million in 254 projects last

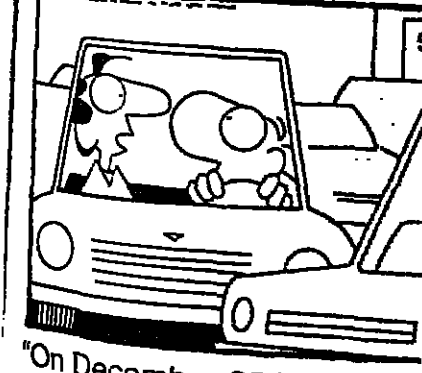
"ACCORDING to a report from Amman Corporation, about 348 (382.8 million) were invested in 254 projects in 1996.

The report said this represented an increase over 1995 and that 199 of the projects were new.

The report said the new projects were in the following Jordan's 1994 period. Other projects were in agriculture, maritime transport and railways.

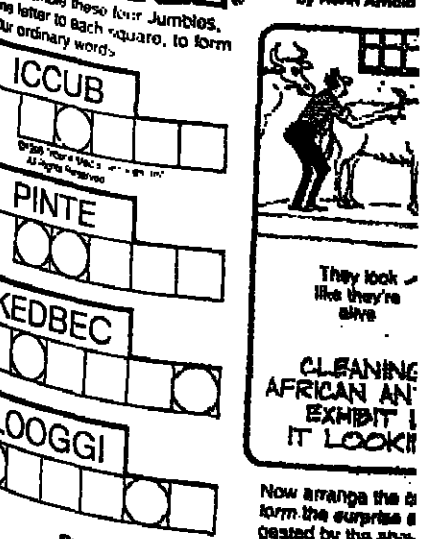
Jordan is trying to attract new investments up to 75 per cent tax reductions along with exemptions from rule violations.

## THE BETTER HALF.



"On December 25th, we celebrate peace. On December 26th, we fight our way into overcrowded parking lots and swear at each other."

## JUMBLE.



Print answer here: JUMBLE. CRAZE SUAVE JOBBE. Measuring wind can be the for meteorologist — A BREEZE.



## BritishBank chief see higher foreign interest in AFM

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign investors have increased their interest in the parallel and regular markets of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) in December 1996, according to John Basco, the executive president of the BritishBank.

Mr. Basco said that the AFM opened the doors to foreign investors in December 1995 and pointed out that the AFM was the only Arab financial market that have joined the index of the International Financial Corporation which is the commercial arm of the World Bank.

The Bank's Executive Vice-President to Jordan, Edward Al Far, said that the number of foreign businesses who deal with the BritishBank and are active investors at the AFM, has increased by 120 per cent.

## Top Arab shipping firm pursues expansion after recovery

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The biggest Arab shipping venture is pursuing ambitious expansion plans after recovering from three years of heavy losses because of competition and an economic slump, company officials have said.

The United Arab Shipping Company (UASC), owned by six Gulf governments, reported substantially higher of profits of \$87.1 million in 1995 and earnings are projected at around \$70 million in 1996.

The UASC board discussed the company's 1996 performance at its United Arab Emirates (UAE) office last week and said it was optimistic on the future.

## Oman aims to export fertiliser to India from 2000

ABU DHABI (R) — An Omani-Indian joint venture fertiliser plant to export urea to increasingly import-dependent Indian fertiliser firms will start up in early 2000, Paul Weber, commercial development manager at Oman Oil Co. has said.

State-owned Oman Oil Co. and India's Krish Bharati Cooperative Limited and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited are behind the \$1 billion project which would export 1.45 million tonnes a year of urea to India, Mr. Weber told delegates at a Middle East gas conference in Abu Dhabi.

The fertiliser plant is being developed to diversify the Arab Gulf state's oil-dominated economy by utilising the sultanate's proven gas reserves of 11 trillion cubic feet.

India is facing a growing supply-demand gap in urea supplies over the next ten years because of limited local gas output.

Omani and Indian government officials agreed to go-ahead with the project in August, despite the subsequent collapse of a project to export Omani natural gas to India by pipeline and doubts over a joint-venture oil refinery in India.

An off-take agreement between the parties is in its final drafting while contractors' bids to construct the plant are being evaluated. A final joint venture agreement is expected to be signed imminently.

Oman Oil Co. will initially hold 50 per cent equity in the firm while the Indian partners will each hold 25 per cent.

The Oman plant, to be built at Sur, south-east of the capital Muscat, will use 45 million cubic feet a year of gas from Omani fields to supply two 2,200 tonnes a year urea trains.

It will also have two ammonia trains each with a capacity of 1,750 tonnes a day, allowing exports of some 315,000 tonnes a year to the international market.

Some 3.5 million barrels a year of condensate or light oil will also be produced from the project.

"Indian fertiliser companies will take 100 per cent of the urea at the greater of market prices or a floor price set to achieve a minimum project return," Mr. Weber said.

"Future market prices for urea will be set by incremental production exported at Yuzhnyy in the Ukraine. Cash costs FOB Yuzhnyy are increasing with gas price increases throughout the former Soviet Union," he said.

The floor price is around \$115 a tonne.

Oman is reserving most of its gas reserves for a \$6 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project — expected to come into production in the year 2000 — for industrial projects including a \$2.4 billion aluminium smelter and a petrochemical plant.

## Daily Beat

### Shair asks companies to translate financial statements to English

\*\* WAHIB SHAIR, the director-general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) has requested all public shareholding companies to translate their annual and semi-annual balance sheets in the future to the English language. He said the translation should include the auditor's report.

The AFM chief requested that the English versions should start by the 1996 balance sheets and that they be characterised by a high degree of transparency and credibility.

This move was taken within the framework of providing accurate information about Jordanian public shareholding companies to meet the interests of foreign investors at the AFM.

In this regard, Mr. Shair has revealed that non-Jordanian (Arab and foreign) investors accounted for JD428 million of trading volume at the stock exchange during November 1996 compared to JD 3.81 million during November 1995. This represents a 12 per cent increase, he noted.

According to AFM statistics the total volume of trade at the AFM during November 1996 amounted to JD15.98 million of which 12.6 per cent involved Arab parties and five per cent was the share of foreign investors.

As for the January-November period of 1996, the total volume of trade at both the regular and parallel markets amounted to JD197.62 million. The share of non-Jordanian Arabs of the total was 10.7 per cent whereas the foreign share stood at 6.3 per cent (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

### Investments reach JD348.9m in 254 projects last year

\*\* ACCORDING TO a report from the Investment Promotion Corporation, about 348.9 million dinars (\$492.8 million) were invested in 254 new projects in Jordan in 1996.

The report said this represented a 26 per cent increase over 1995 and that 199 of the projects were industrial.

The report said the new projects also included 40 hotels. More rooms are needed because of rising tourism following Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel. Other projects were in agricultural, medical and maritime transport and railway sectors, the report said.

Jordan is trying to attract new investment by offering up to 75 per cent tax reductions for businesses along with exemptions from rules on financial transactions.

## Europe coal sell-offs seen claiming 400,000 jobs to 2000

GENEVA (AFP) — Coal industry privatisation in eastern and central Europe will claim up to 400,000 jobs by the decade's end, nearly as many as have been lost since 1990, the Economic Commission for Europe has said.

Experts said privatisation was the best way to make coal industries in Russia and eastern European nations viable.

However, they admitted sell-offs would lead to big job losses and serious social problems.

Some 440,000 jobs disappeared due to partial privatisations between 1990 and 1996, according to the commission.

Poland saw 150,000 job cuts, Russia 147,000, the Czech Republic 60,000, Romania 60,000 and Hungary 20,000 during the period.

Experts forecast additional job losses of between 376,000 and 400,000 up to 2000.

UASC sources said the new vessels, which would replace 13 ageing ships serving those areas, had cost around \$900 million. They will expand the company's fleet to 54 ships, mostly container vessels.

UASC is the biggest joint Arab shipping venture and its activities cover mostly Gulf states and their main economic partners, the European Union, the United States, Japan and other Asian countries.

Between 1992 and 1994, the company suffered from net losses of around \$55.4 million because of a global economic slump and strong competition. The losses forced it to cut spending and halt losing routes.


But its chairman, Abdullah Lootah, said the 1995 profits had enabled UASC to cover all the losses and transfer \$28 million of the remaining profits to the reserves to strengthen its financial position.

Over 22 billion pounds are waiting to be claimed from the national lottery, bookmakers and company benefits.

BRITONS reportedly leave £776 unclaimed

LONDON (R) — Britons have left unclaimed a staggering 77 billion pounds (\$122 billion) worth of forgotten fortunes in bank accounts and shares, a market survey has showed.

The Mintel survey showed that Britons have lost track of almost 55 billion pounds saved with banks, building societies, national savings and in stocks and shares. Many flotation benefits have never been claimed.

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET                                    |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        |  |             |       |        |        |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|---|-------------|-------|--------|--------|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SAMSANI                       |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        |   |             |       |        |        |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179                                |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        |   |             |       |        |        |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 04/01/1997 |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        |   |             |       |        |        |
| PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH                                       | PAST 12 MONTHS LOW | COMPANY'S NAME         | P / E                     | DIV.  | NO. OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |   |             |       |        |        |
| 259.500   | 205.000            | ARAB BANK              | 13.6                      | 1.41  | 2             | 80            | 19960           | 253.00     | 249.00      | 4.00   |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.750   | 2.900              | BANK OF JORDAN         | 12.3                      | 0.00  | 4             | 1000          | 3430            | 3.60       | 3.42        | .18    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.230   | 1.880              | MID-EAST INV. BK.      | 22.3                      | 0.00  | 30            | 26225         | 28683           | 1.07       | 1.10        | .03    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 5.250   | 4.250              | THE HOUSING BK.        | 12.7                      | 2.81  | 2             | 300           | 1415            | 4.83       | 4.75        | .08    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 2.950   | 2.440              | JOR. KOWAT BANK        | 19.9                      | 0.00  | 4             | 9805          | 2817            | 2.85       | 2.75        | .10    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 4.180   | 3.480              | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK      | 17.6                      | 0.00  | 7             | 1126          | 4126            | 3.64       | 3.67        | .03    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 3.000   | 1.380              | ORION BK. SAV. INV.    | 9                         | 0.00  | 3             | 1760          | 2535            | 1.38       | 1.45        | .07    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 3.800   | 3.000              | JOR. INV. FIN. BANK    | 20.0                      | 0.00  | 1             | 150000        | 555000          | 3.75       | 3.70        | .05    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.450   | 1.000              | PHILADEL. INV. BK.     | 9                         | 0.00  | 5             | 1400          | 1785            | 1.28       | 1.32        | .04    |   |             |       |        |        |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS  |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        | INDEX: 191.57   | CHNG: -1.43 | 58    | 191666 | 645230 |
| 2.830   | 1.830              | JOR. FRENCH INSUR.     | 5.5                       | 10.20 | 5             | 1150          | 2219            | 1.94       | 1.96        | .02    |   |             |       |        |        |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS                                   |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        | INDEX: 120.88   | CHNG: +0.10 | 5     | 1150   | 2219   |
| 1.830   | 1.450              | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.     | 11.4                      | 7.32  | 11            | 4764          | 7802            | 1.68       | 1.64        | .04    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 9.250   | 7.800              | JOR. HOTEL TOURISM     | 17.3                      | 2.04  | 2             | 1000          | 8050            | 8.45       | 8.05        | .40    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.780   | 1.080              | NATL. PORTFOLIO        | 9                         | 0.00  | 18            | 5500          | 5464            | 1.14       | 1.19        | .05    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.250   | .960               | BANKA EDUCATION        | 9                         | 0.00  | 7             | 2350          | 2439            | 1.06       | 1.04        | .02    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 2.310   | 1.590              | UNIFIED CO.            | 11.2                      | 4.72  | 60            | 32650         | 68750           | 2.02       | 2.12        | .10    |   |             |       |        |        |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS                                     |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        | INDEX: 115.38   | CHNG: +0.03 | 98    | 46264  | 93504  |
| 1.250   | 1.020              | ATTACHMENT             | 9                         | 0.00  | 1             | 200           | 202             | 1.02       | 1.01        | .01    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 3.730   | 3.060              | JOR. CHEMIST FACT.     | 19.2                      | 2.99  | 8             | 1134          | 3795            | 3.45       | 3.35        | .10    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 3.500   | 2.710              | JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES   | 35.7                      | 0.00  | 2             | 200           | 564             | 3.50       | 3.32        | .18    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 10.400  | 8.720              | JOR. PETROL. REFINARY  | 9.7                       | 8.35  | 20            | 4892          | 46916           | 9.55       | 9.58        | .03    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.190   | 1.150              | WOLLEN INDUSTRIES      | 7.1                       | 5.41  | 1             | 250           | 1663            | 7.00       | 6.65        | .35    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 3.750   | 3.040              | INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.  | 55.5                      | 0.00  | 1             | 100           | 126             | 2.21       | 2.25        | .04    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 4.730   | 3.040              | ARAB PEARL. MANF.      | 39.8                      | 0.00  | 7             | 1650          | 4486            | 2.68       | 2.74        | .06    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 2.580   | 2.050              | JORDAN DAIRY           | 7.27                      | 1.21  | 2             | 11509         | 41894           | 3.50       | 3.52        | .02    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 2.360   | 1.570              | JOR. PIPES MANFCT.     | 13.5                      | 6.82  | 2             | 1000          | 2200            | 2.20       | 2.20        | .00    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 7.700   | 4.250              | DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.    | 9.1                       | 7.27  | 1             | 500           | 825             | 1.65       | 1.65        | .00    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 5.800   | 3.130              | ARAB ALUM. IND.        | 9.1                       | 8.20  | 5             | 1250          | 1238            | 4.95       | 4.95        | .00    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.950   | 1.060              | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY    | 9                         | 0.00  | 40            | 41100         | 38246           | .99        | .62         | .37    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.440   | 1.060              | ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.  | 10.7                      | 9.01  | 9             | 1880          | 2123            | 1.12       | 1.15        | .03    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.050   | .540               | NATIONAL INS.          | 10.7                      | 8.33  | 33            | 30200         | 21387           | .70        | .72         | .02    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.450   | .910               | INTERMED. PETRO. CHM.  | 9                         | 0.00  | 13            | 3500          | 3780            | 1.03       | 1.08        | .05    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 3.830   | 2.130              | NATL. CABLE WIRE. NYAC | 15.9                      | 0.00  | 2             | 350           | 914             | 2.75       | 2.61        | .14    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.270   | .570               | JOR. SULPHO-CHM.       | 9                         | 0.00  | 1             | 500           | 430             | .89        | .86         | .03    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.780   | 1.080              | ARAB PEARL. CHM.       | 26.2                      | 0.00  | 16            | 7950          | 11059           | 1.33       | 1.40        | .07    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 3.260   | 1.440              | UNIV. HOUS. TRD.       | 5.4                       | 11.24 | 32            | 15950         | 28297           | 1.74       | 1.78        | .04    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 2.000   | 1.140              | JOR. TINS. RESOURCES   | 16.4                      | 5.00  | 13            | 4200          | 5481            | 1.27       | 1.31        | .04    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.420   | .840               | JOR. NEW CABLE CO.     | 25.8                      | 0.00  | 57            | 37000         | 34986           | .93        | .95         | .02    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.450   | 1.350              | UNIV. TOBACCO          | 30.6                      | 0.00  | 13            | 7027          | 9134            | 1.32       | 1.30        | .02    |   |             |       |        |        |
| 1.600   | .930               | UNION CH. & VEG.       | 24.6                      | 0.00  | 3             | 2250          | 2263            | 1.00       | 1.00        | .00    |   |             |       |        |        |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS                                  |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        | INDEX: 114.82   | CHNG: -1.15 | 309   | 175112 | 254410 |
| GRAND TOTAL   |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        | INDEX: 151.61   | CHNG: -1.21 | 470   | 414212 | 995263 |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 04/01/1997  |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        |   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .800               | .500                   | JOR. TRADE FAC.           | 13.9  | 0.00          | 7             | 5250            | 2655       | .50         | .52    | .02   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | 1.580              | 1.050                  | SARA FOR INVESTMENT       | 30.2  | 0.00          | 2             | 5000            | 7605       | 1.55        | 1.53   | .02   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .700               | .700                   | ORION INV. SOF            | 69.8  | 0.00          | 6             | 8647            | 1985       | .73         | .73    | .00   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | 1.020              | .370                   | ARAB FIN. INVEST.         | 9     | 0.00          | 12            | 16350           | 7033       | .43         | .44    | .01   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .640               | .310                   | JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JENCO   | 9     | 0.00          | 1             | 100             | 35         | .33         | .33    | .00   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | 1.730              | 1.300                  | NATL. CHLORIDE            | 2     | 0.00          | 1             | 1600            | 2144       | 1.33        | 1.34   | .01   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .450               | .450                   | ARAB INV. INV. TRD.       | 0     | 0.00          | 1             | 41117           | 20552      | .48         | .50    | .02   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .910               | .520                   | NATL. TEXTILE             | 0     | 0.00          | 9             | 2350            | 2450       | .55         | .55    | .00   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | 1.000              | .400                   | NATL. MULT. ENG. MANUFACT | 0     | 0.00          | 13            | 11850           | 5566       | .46         | .47    | .01   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .430               | .430                   | RAYTEX DYES & MOUTDS      | 0     | 0.00          | 3             | 450             | 221        | .48         | .50    | .02   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .990               | .720                   | JORDAN STEEL              | 0     | 0.00          | 3             | 950             | 322        | .77         | .80    | .03   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .720               | .430                   | ARAB ELECT. INDUS.        | 0     | 0.00          | 1             | 1000            | 500        | .50         | .50    | .00   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .390               | .390                   | INDUS. ENG.               | 25.9  | 0.00          | 14            | 20000           | 8295       | .41         | .42    | .01   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | 1.380              | .760                   | INDUS. CERAMIC            | 0     | 0.00          | 1             | 10040           | .77        | .77         | .00    |   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | .850               | .580                   | PEARL SAN. P. CORP.       | 0     | 0.00          | 2             | 90              | .66        | .73         | .07    |   |             |       |        |        |
| N   | 1.500              | .530                   | MID-EAST COMPLEX          | 8.0   | 0.00          | 8             | 2350            | 1583       | .67         | .68    | .01   |             |       |        |        |
| GRAND TOTAL   |                    |                        |                           |       |               |               |                 |            |             |        | 97  | 129144      | 69239 |        |        |







# Unfancied Americans win Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (Agencies) — The unfancied combination of Justin Gimelstob and Chanda Rubin carried the United States to their first victory in the Hopman Cup mixed teams event on Saturday when they beat South Africa 2-1 in the final.

With the tie level at 1-1, Gimelstob and Rubin fought back to beat Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer 3-6 6-2 7-5 in the doubles.

The United States, who have missed only one tournament in the nine-year history of the event, were beaten finalists in 1990 and 1991.

Rubin, 20, was the heroine of the U.S. team's success, dropping only one set in her four singles matches.

She had an unlikely ally in Gimelstob who was on a beach holiday in Miami when he was called on as a late replacement for Richey Reneberg whose wife was expecting a baby.

The 151st-ranked American arrived in Perth only nine hours before his first match against Guy Forger on Sunday.

While he won only one of his four singles ties — upsetting Australia's Mark Philippoussis — the 19-year-old combined with Rubin to win three of their four doubles matches.

Ferreira, who was making a comeback in this tournament from knee surgery, kept South Africa's hopes alive when he levelled the tie with a 6-4 7-6 victory over Gimelstob.

World number 17 Rubin drew first blood for the Americans when she beat Coetzer 7-5 6-2.

Both players struggled with their serve, but the American eventually found her rhythm to win in 68 minutes.

Ferreira, ranked 10 in the world, took 87 minutes to dispose of Gimelstob, who recorded the biggest win of his career on Thursday when he beat world number 30 Philippoussis to book the United States a spot in the final.

In a thrilling doubles tie lasting one hour and 47 minutes the American pair broke Coetzer's serve to clinch the title.

Third seeded South Africa and Ferreira had had their share of luck and were seemingly down and out in the tournament on Wednesday when they stood on the verge of defeat against second seeds Switzerland.

Coetzer had lost her singles tie and Ferreira was trailing Marc Rosset 6-0 2-1, but a back injury to the big Swiss player handed the South Africans an unlikely 2-1 victory.

**Woodbridge to play Draper in all-Australian hardcourt final**

Todd Woodbridge will play Scott Draper in an all-Australian final of the Australian Hardcourt Tennis Championship in Adelaide Sunday after semi-final victories Saturday.

It will be the first all-Australian final at Memorial Drive since the 1988 encounter between Woodbridge's doubles partner, Mark Woodforde, and Wally Masur.

In sweltering heat, Woodbridge fought back after losing a first set tiebreaker to beat Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 in the opening semi-final while Draper was also pushed before beating fiery American qualifier Jeff Tarango 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

It will be Woodbridge's eighth career singles final and his first in Australia while Draper will be playing in his first final.

Woodbridge lost his last final in August against South African Wayne Ferreira in Toronto, Canada.

His only singles triumph came at the United States red clay championship at Coral Springs, Florida, in May 1995.

**Austrian wins NZ women's international**

In Auckland, New



The American pair of Justin Gimelstob and Chanda Rubin congratulate each other after winning the Hopman Cup mixed teams event on Saturday (Reuters photo)

Zealand, Austrian qualifier Marion Maruska won the singles title in the \$107,500 New Zealand women's international tennis tournament here Saturday, beating her compatriot and second seed Judith Wiesner 6-3, 6-1.

Maruska, ranked 154 in the world, had little trouble overcoming Wiesner in the all-Australian singles final.

Wiesner, with a world ranking of 15, was never in control of her game and was

troubled by strong winds whipping across the court. Maruska broke Wiesner in the fifth and ninth games to win the opening set and did the same in the second and sixth games of the second set.

Maruska, who had never before reached the quarter finals of a main event on the Women's Tennis Association Tour, was overjoyed. "I'm so happy I don't know what to say. I had a game plan and I stayed with

it. The wind made the match difficult but it worked out for me," she said.

Wiesner said she was disappointed but happy for Maruska. "The wind was a great equaliser. I couldn't serve as well as I wanted to and I made a lot of mistakes," she said.

"I let the wind get to me," she said. "I got to the final, Maruska beat fifth seed Florencia Labat from Argentina and German Anke Huber, the tournament top seed.

## Becker to quit in 3 years at most

BONN (R) — Boris Becker said in a magazine interview he still hoped to be world number one again but intended to quit the game within three years.

"For as long as I play tennis, being number one will be the ultimate dream," Becker, currently ranked sixth in the world, told Der Spiegel magazine, according to an advance release from Monday's edition. "I'm glad to have been there once but 12 weeks was a bit short. I have the capability and a lot of things can happen in the next six months."

"I won't make myself crazy but I know that at the end of the road I could be number one," Becker said he was determined to have retired by the time his son started school

in three years and already had a dream for the way he wanted to quit. "Something along the lines of — just before the match point at Wimbledon against Sampras which will make me world number one, saying to myself, Boris, this is your final service."

Becker said he also wanted to quit Germany, perhaps for New York, Paris or London, before his son started school because of the pressure that came from having a famous father and from not being white. Becker's wife Barbara is black. "He would be confronted with problems which were not his own but those of his parents," Becker said.

"His parents are very well known and he doesn't look like a white child. There are no

black people in (Becker's home town) Leimen and very few in Munich."

Becker declined to comment on frequent reports of threats to kill him or abduct his child. "The Munich police have taken the problems perfectly seriously," he said. Becker also expressed anger at the way German authorities had searched his house and that of his parents as part of a tax investigation last month. He denied there were any irregularities in his tax affairs.

"My tax declarations have always been compiled by tax lawyers who knew all the background in detail," he said. "I was always assured that everything was in order and had been declared to the authorities."

## Sampras, Graf named as champions for 1996

LONDON (R) — Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf were named on Friday as the International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions for 1996.

Sampras won the U.S. Open title in September for his only Grand Slam success of the year, and added the ATP Championship title in November after a memorable victory over German Boris Becker in the final.

It is the fourth successive year that the American was named by the ITF as the men's champion.

Graf took the women's title for the seventh time in 10 years after winning the French, Wimbledon and U.S. Open crowns.

The ITF also named doubles champions for the first time, the men's honour going to Australians Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, whose 12 titles during the year included their fourth Wimbledon.

Their second U.S. Open, the ATP Championship and the Olympic title.

The women's champions are Americans Lindsay Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez, winners of the French and WTA Tour championship titles and the Olympic gold medal.

The winners will receive their awards during the traditional ITF world champions' dinner during this year's French Open.

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# Sports

## Reading send sinning Saints crashing out of F.A. Cup

How to...  
Reading's...  
Saints...  
F.A. Cup...  
Reading...  
Saints...  
F.A. Cup...  
Reading...  
Saints...  
F.A. Cup...

LONDON (R) — First Division Reading cruised into the fourth round of the FA Cup on Saturday by demolishing a suicidal Luton side who ended their nightmarish afternoon with a 5-0 victory.

Reading, struggling at the long end of the First Division, won 3-1 with goals from James Lambert (19th), Steven Caskey (55th) and Peter Morley, who put the widely regarded Southampton side with a 76th minute goal.

Norwegian Egil Olsenstad brought the Saints back to the match with a 49th minute equaliser but whatever Southampton may have had of advancing were nullified by the sending-off of James Benali.

He elbowed a referee in the face in the incident that led to the penalty. Australian Robbie Slater was sent off for swearing at a referee in the last minute.

Southampton Manager Jean Tigana was angry at the end of the tie and angrily confronted the referee.

In the only match between two Premier League sides, Reading drew 1-1 with Luton.

John Harrison opened the scoring for the Gomers for the first time in 10 minutes. Michael Gray equalised 10 minutes later.

French goalkeeper Lionel Cheyrou kept Sunderland in the cup with a series of outstanding saves.

On a day largely bereft of

the upsets that traditionally make the third round one of the highlights of the English FA Cup on Saturday, Wrexham also survived against a Premier League side.

On the fifth anniversary of their famous third round win over Arsenal, they took the lead against West Ham with a Bryan Hughes header after six minutes but had to settle for a 1-1 draw after Portuguese striker Hugo Porfiro equalised just before halftime.

Sheffield Wednesday chalked up their biggest cup win since beating Manchester United 7-2 in a fourth round replay in 1961 when they demolished Grimsby 7-1 at Hillsborough.

Richie Humphreys set the tone for the afternoon with Wednesday's opening goal — a 40-metre lob over goalkeeper Jason Pearcey — and he added another as Andy Booth (2).

Graham Hyde, Mark Pemberton and an Ashley Fickling own goal completed Grimsby's misery.

Wednesday Assistant Manager Peter Shreeves said afterwards: "Richie believes he got a hat-trick because he thought he got the final touch on the own goal. But we'll have to see the video evidence to check."

Middlesbrough, who have been struggling in the Premier League this season, also enjoyed a one-sided victory against Third Division Chester, winning 6-0 — the first time they have scored six

in the cup since a 6-2 third round win over Oldham in 1965.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, who had failed to score for seven matches, scored twice with Craig Hignett, Neil Cox, Mickel Beck and substitute Phil Stamp adding the others.

Hignett marked Middlesbrough's day when he was sent off after 59 minutes for dissent after Chester were awarded a penalty.

Premier League leaders Liverpool, last season's beaten cup finalists, went ahead against their old Lancashire rivals Burnley, now of the Second Division, through Stan Collymore after 12 minutes. That proved to be the only goal of a poor match, dominated by Burnley's defensive tactics.

Blackburn also won 1-0, beating First Division Port Vale thanks to a 68th minute strike from Norwegian Lars Bohinen.

Other Premier League teams to reach round four included Chelsea, who overcame West Brom 3-0 thanks to goals from Dennis Wise, Craig Burley and Gianfranco Zola, and Nottingham Forest, who beat First Division Ipswich 3-0 with Dean Saunders scoring twice and Chris Allen getting his first of the season.

Only 14 ties were played on Saturday because of the weather. Four more were scheduled for Sunday, including the glamour match between holders Manchester United and Tottenham.

## China's young guns fire at World Cup short course

HONG KONG (R) — China's exciting new generation of women swimmers made their mark in the opening leg of the World Cup short course series on Saturday, with four gold medals.

The teenage squad silenced critics who labelled them "second-stringers" by dominating the women's competition, though Olympic medalist Lydia Poff of Costa Rica held China's tide at bay to claim the gold.

Seventeen-year-old Wang Wei took the 100 metres breaststroke title, Lu Donghua, 14, won the 50 metres backstroke, Chen Yan, 17, triumphed in the 200 metres stroke and the 50 metres freestyle was captured by 15-

year-old Nian Yun, who was in the Chinese 4 x 100 metres relay squad who won silver at the Atlanta Olympics.

The Chinese, who had a lean Olympics following drug controversies which saw seven swimmers banned after the 1994 Asian Games, are rebuilding for the 1998 World Championships and the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Their gold medalist in Atlanta, Le Jingyi, did not enter the Hong Kong leg but her young compatriots underlined the strength in depth of the team. Lu and butterfly specialist Liu Lianin are expected to compete in the second leg in Beijing next week.

"It's been a great first day for us with several good performances," said China's deputy head coach Zhang Xiong. "We have a young team, here and they did well. This was an ideal chance to check their progress after winter training."

Australia's men swimmers had a triumphant first day with four gold medals. Michael Klim took the 100 metres freestyle and 50 metres butterfly titles, world short course champion Matthew Dunn was streets ahead of his rivals in the 400 metres individual medley and Adrian Radley touched first in the 100 metres backstroke.

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**Extension of the Closing Date for Tender No. 110/96 of the Royal Scientific Society Amman - Jordan**  
The Royal Scientific Society announces the extension of the closing date for Tender No. 110/96 that includes supply of "Laboratory test equipment and test tools" to upgrade its technical capabilities in testing and certification of electric products according to internationally accepted standards of safety and quality.  
1. Copies of the tender documents can be obtained for the price of (100) one hundred JD, from the Secretary of the Tender Committee at the Royal Scientific Society, during working hours (8:00 a.m.) to (5:00 p.m.) except of Thursdays and Fridays.  
2. Tenders should be submitted to the Head of the Tender Committee at R.S.S. before January 26, 1997 (12:00 a.m. local time).  
President

**SOREN BRIDGE**  
WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAH HIRSCH

**WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ**  
1 - Both vulnerable, as South is bid:  
396 0676 06952 48  
a bidding has proceeded:  
WEST EAST SOUTH WEST  
Pass 10 Pass 7  
What do you bid now?  
2 - Neither vulnerable, as South is bid:  
067 0682 0698 4435  
Four opens the bidding with one round. What do you respond?  
3 - East-West vulnerable, as South is bid:  
0676 063 06874 44EQ  
a bidding has proceeded:  
WEST EAST SOUTH WEST  
Pass 14 Pass 20  
What do you bid now?  
4 - As South, vulnerable, you are bid:  
065 061655 4QJ87  
a bidding has proceeded:  
WEST EAST SOUTH WEST  
Pass 14 Pass 20  
What do you bid now?  
5 - Both vulnerable, as South is bid:  
0653 066 06KJ8 4J4  
a bidding has proceeded:  
WEST EAST SOUTH WEST  
Pass 34 Pass 7  
What do you bid now?  
6 - Both vulnerable, as South is bid:  
0653 066 06KJ8 4J4  
a bidding has proceeded:  
WEST EAST SOUTH WEST  
Pass 34 Pass 7  
What do you bid now?

**Nabil & Hisham's Theatre**  
The Theatre is closed  
Dec. 15, 1996 until the  
of the Holy Month  
Ramadan in order to  
for a new play entitled  
"Al Aman Ya"





**COLD AND HUNGRY:** Hungry swans approach a car near Fau rburn Ings in Yorkshire after days of sub-zero temperatures left the water they normally swim in almost totally frozen over (see weather story on page 5) (AFP photo)

## Eight Muslim countries open summit organised by Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey's Islamic premier opened a summit of eight predominantly Muslim countries Saturday with a call for political and economic unity.

Egypt, Iran, Nigeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Turkey and Pakistan are what Necmettin Erbakan has called the "D-8" or developing eight, alliance. In all, the countries' population total 660 million.

Opening the one-day summit, Mr. Erbakan, whose Islamist Welfare Party heads a center-right coalition, insisted that the countries work to achieve "solidarity and cooperation in the international forums."

"It is essential not to damage bilateral or regional commitments," among the eight, said Mr. Erbakan, who came up with the idea for the summit.

In an apparent criticism of Western nations, Mr. Erbakan said the D-8 would work to achieve "cooperation versus patronising."

However, Mr. Erbakan emphasised that D-8 members should keep their commitments to international organisations.

The D-8, he said, should eventually group all developing countries.

Mr. Erbakan's coalition partner, Western-oriented Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller tried to play down the Muslim aspect of the summit.

"It is just like how the European Union (EU) brings together only Christian nations," said Mrs. Ciller, a big promoter of EU membership for Turkey. "But the European Union also declares that it is not a Christian club."

Turkey remains uneasy that its religion might be a reason for its rejection from the EU.

Although Turkey is predominantly Muslim, it is a secular country, Turkey's powerful U.S.-supplied military opposes any attempts to retreat from the nation's secular traditions.

Mrs. Ciller said the basic

goal of the D-8 would be to expand trade relations. Now, she said, "bilateral trade within the countries in D-8 is generally less than one per cent."

Saturday's meeting was expected to tackle bureaucratic issues, such as the formation of the secretariat, which Turkey would like to have in Istanbul.

Mr. Erbakan said the ministers would also lay the groundwork for a D-8 heads of state summit in the next two months.

Mr. Erbakan has irked the United States for strengthening ties with Iran. Bringing Nigeria into the group also could create protests.

Human rights violations by Nigeria's military regime has drawn protests from the West.

Egypt remains cool to the project. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak frowns on the anti-U.S. policies of Mr. Erbakan's party as well as its support the Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

## Mahdi sees uprising in Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Sudanese opposition leader Sadeq Al Mahdi said on Friday that a popular uprising was most likely to overthrow the government in Khartoum, rather than a military campaign from abroad, a coup d'etat or change from within.

Mr. Mahdi, who fled Khartoum last month and is now on the second stage of a tour to muster support for the opposition, also said he did not expect Egypt or any other of Sudan's neighbours to back opposition military activities from bases in Eritrea.

He played down the military aspect of the opposition's strategy, saying it was only one of many forms of pressure he hoped would tip the balance against the Khartoum government.

Mr. Mahdi was democratically elected prime minister of Sudan in 1989 when the present government seized power in a military coup. He is the leader of the powerful Umma Party and of the Ansar, the religious movement loyal to the 19th century Mahdi.

"I think the regime has already run out of steam," he told a news conference in Cairo. "It is incapable of resolving any of the country's internal or external problems. It is now hanging by the very feeblest of threads."

"The forces for a national uprising are all now quite mature in Sudan... The social forces that usually make for change are now in preparation for a decisive moment," he added.

"I think an uprising will come, however much the regime buys time, because there is no way the regime can stop the opposition rejecting it. This is the most probable outcome," he said.

The two previous underground governments in Sudan — those of Ibrahim Abboud in 1964 and Jaafar Nimeiri in 1985 — have both fallen to popular uprisings from the streets of Khartoum.

Pressed for details of a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday, Mr. Mahdi said only it was no surprise that what he called "victims of the regime" should think alike. Historically Egypt has had bad relations with the Mahdist movement and it raised no objections to the military coup of 1989. But Cairo has since accused Khartoum of helping Egyptians who tried to kill Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa in 1995.

"I am not expecting any Egyptian military help in the realisation of the aims of the people of Sudan nor is it the only means by which we are working," Mr. Mahdi said.

## Emir of Qatar and his deposed father reconcile

DOHA (Agencies) — The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, has reconciled with his father, whom he deposed in a bloodless palace coup in June 1995, the official QNA news agency reported Saturday.

"Sheikh Hamad met his father, Sheikh Khalifa, in Paris on Friday and they decided to put an end to the conflict in the family and to open a new page in relations founded on mutual respect," QNA said.

The news agency said father and son had decided "to work together to ensure the progress and stability of Qatar."

The emir also met with his father in Rome last month, two months after settling a dispute over billions of dollars in missing state funds.

QNA said several other members of the ruling family attended the meeting in Paris but there was no word on when the former emir would return to Qatar.

Sheikh Khalifa was accused of diverting billions of dollars in state funds and Doha asked a number of foreign countries to freeze his bank accounts.

The total amount of money involved was never specified but was estimated at between

three and eight billion dollars.

Sheikh Khalifa had refused to recognise the new regime and announced plans to return to power.

QNA said the emir and his father "agreed to end family differences between them and start a new page of family ties based on love and mutual respect and appreciation."

"They also agreed to work together to push forward the march of progress and prosperity in our dear country," it added.

When they met in Rome in December for the first time since the 1995 coup, they also left unresolved the future of 200 of the father's followers accused by the son of plotting a counter-coup last February.

Qatar is a big producer of natural gas and a small oil exporter.

With a population of about 520,000, barely 150,000 of them citizens, it has one of the highest gross national products per capita in the world at \$22,000 per person.

Sheikh Hamad, born in 1950 and trained at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy, was groomed as his father's heir in the 1970s and 1980s.

By 1992 he was running day-to-day affairs and following a forceful policy of modernisation. But his father retained control of the treasury.

The two fell out in early 1995. Sheikh Khalifa apparently tried unsuccessfully to claw back some of his previous authority and to resume control of the economy.

The upshot was a bloodless coup while Sheikh Khalifa was abroad. Sheikh Hamad made a 90-second television appearance to announce he had taken power.

Sheikh Khalifa, who took power by deposing a uncle in 1972, insisted in Switzerland that he remained legitimate ruler and vowed to "return home whatever it costs."

Officials said in December that the meeting between the father and son in Rome was intended to pave the way for Sheikh Khalifa's return to Qatar.

But he was unwilling to go home unless his followers were also allowed back, even though he denied any involvement in their alleged plot, the officials said.

They said an agreement was also needed on state funds believed to have been kept under Sheikh Khalifa's personal control.

## Opening of Israeli fair in Amman delayed by 2 days, organiser says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The opening of a four-day Israeli trade exhibition is delayed for two days because of "technical problems," the organiser said Saturday.

Fakhri Nasser, chief executive of the International and National Expo Corporation, also reiterated that he would not scrap the controversial event in the face of political opposition in the country.

"Even if they (opponents) pay me \$50 million, I will not cancel the exhibition," Mr. Nasser told the Jordan Times.

He was refuting reports in the local press that said he was holding out for "compensation" as a precondition for calling off the trade fair.

The exhibition was scheduled to open on Jan. 6, and Nasser said Saturday it would open on Jan. 8 and run for four days as planned.

"Certain technical problems delayed the formal opening of the event, but there is no postponement of the event," he said.

Another official in his company was quoted as saying Israeli products coming across the border to be displayed at the exhibition were delayed by technicalities.

"Some merchandise was delayed at the border, but we expect things to be ready by Wednesday," Mohammad Atari, an official of the International and

Expo Corporation, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

But Mr. Nasser said there were "no such delays."

At least 80 Israeli companies, the bulk of them manufacturers of consumer products, are expected to take part in the event, which was originally scheduled to open on Dec. 15 but delayed because, according to Mr. Nasser, of the high number of Israeli firms wishing to take part.

The exhibition will be the first of its kind to be held in Jordan after the Kingdom and Israel signed a peace treaty in October 1994 calling for full normalisation of relations after nearly half-a-century of hostilities.

Opposition parties led by the Islamic Action Front and leftist activists who oppose normal relations with the Jewish state have launched a campaign to foil the exhibition.

The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has joined the campaign by urging the Kingdom's press establishments and journalists to refrain from covering the event and to call on the general public to stay away from the fair.

The JPA has sent a memo to all press organisations in Jordan saying the association's stand against the exhibition stemmed "from an overwhelming national rejection of the idea" of holding such an event in Jordan.

It cited "the Israeli authorities' disregard for Arab rights, escalation of criminal

practices against the Palestinian people and aggression on southern Lebanon," as the basis for its call for boycotting the event.

It also asked journalists to "make sure" that the public will also be committed to a "total boycott" of the exhibition.

Opponents of the exhibition have also set up a "national Jordanian committee for cancelling the Israeli trade fair," and are threatening Jordanians who attend with blacklisting.

They are also planning to form a "human chain" in front of the exhibition venue to prevent visitors from the exhibition.

Ahmad Obaidat, a former prime minister who heads the committee, said the group includes Parliament members, political parties, trade unionists, women's groups and human rights organisations.

Opposition parties base their argument on their rejection of normalisation of relations with Israel and contend that the trade fair would only serve Israel's business interests of getting into the Arab market.

Business organisations argue that the time is not opportune for an Israeli trade fair in Jordan, given the stalled implementation of Israeli-Palestinian agreements. They also say that a strong message should be sent to hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he could not

(Continued on page 7)

## Ghali says he is 'happy to be home' after return to Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Former U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said Saturday he was happy to be back home in Egypt and pledged to work "for peace and for the Egyptian people."

Mr. Ghali, 74, spoke with reporters following a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak.

He had arrived by plane late Friday and said he did not want to answer a lot of questions.

"Leave me alone. I slept for three hours only," he told reporters with a laugh.

Mr. Ghali said he told Mr. Mubarak: "I offered my gratitude to Egypt, both government and people, for supporting me over the past five years."

He denied reports that he

has been offered a job in the Egyptian government but expressed his readiness "to cooperate on any issue."

He added: "I hope to continue working for peace and for the Egyptian people."

Mr. Ghali completed a five-year term as U.N. secretary-general on Dec. 31. The United States blocked him from a second term, arguing that he had not done enough to reform the international body. He was succeeded Jan. 1 by Kofi Annan of Ghana.

Asked what he would advise Annan, he suggested the new secretary-general "defend its (the U.N.) independence and find a solution for the financial crisis."

Mr. Ghali said reform of the United Nations was hindered by the lack of money

and pointed out that the United States was \$1.4 billion in arrears on payments.

Mr. Ghali said he planned a weeklong vacation in Egypt followed by two weeks at an undisclosed location.

He said his latest book, which chronicles the life of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat from his visit to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 to his assassination in 1981, would be published in April in the United States.

Mr. Ghali was state minister for foreign affairs during the Sadat administration. Later, he served in the Egyptian government as deputy prime minister for foreign affairs.

Egypt in 1979 was the first Arab state to make peace with Israel.

## Column

The thief, the hat and the cat

MOSCOW (AFP) — A thief who fancied the look of an attractive fur hat on the head of a passer-by got more than he bargained for when he tried to snatch it. The fur collar of the victim's coat turned out to be a siamese cat, which sunk its jaws and claws into the hands of the thief, who quickly turned tail.

The local paper Vologodskiy Novosti reported in Vologda, in northeast Russia. The cat's owner had decided to take his pet out on his walk as an added protection against sub-zero temperatures. "There is no animal more frightening than a cat, especially on its master's shoulders," the paper noted.

Madonna will not be a 'Jewish mother'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Pop superstar Madonna has pledged in an interview, published in an Israeli newspaper not to be a "Jewish mother" to her newborn daughter. Asked by Yediot Aharonot whether she would raise her nearly three-month-old daughter, Lourdes Maria, like a "Jewish mother," Madonna replied: "Absolutely not," she said. "You have to teach a child to deal with life, you can't be overprotective. She would raise her daughter as a Catholic while teaching her about other religions, including Judaism."

Charles' new 'M'lady'

LONDON (AFP) — Camilla Parker Bowles will be the new "M'lady" around prince Charles' Highgrove country manor, the London tabloid paper the Daily Mirror reported. The heir to the British throne has reportedly asked his house staff to call her "M'lady." The paper reported one servant as saying: "We don't have a problem with addressing Camilla as M'lady. If that's what the boss wants, that's what will happen."

'Baywatch' star weds

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Donna D'errico of "Baywatch" and "Baywatch Nights" married Motley Crue's Nikki Sixx in a private ceremony at a Malibu home, a publicist said Friday. The Dec. 23 ceremony was attended by D'errico's son, Ryan, and Sixx's daughter, Stormy, and his sons, Gunner and Decker, said publicist Alicia Smith. "The wedding took place in front of the Christmas tree and was followed by a short honeymoon in Carmel, California," she said.

Ivana Trump sues boat-builder

NEW YORK (AFP) — Ivana Trump, former wife of Donald Trump, filed a suit against the company that built her \$4.1 million yacht, saying the ship is "unseaworthy, dangerously built and abysmally constructed."

Trump was suing to recover her original \$4.1 million and wanted an additional \$35 million for emotional distress. A spokesman for the company said a fire mentioned in the lawsuit was really only "a little bit of smoke" on the 105-foot yacht, dubbed "My Ivana."

New way of declaring love

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — An advertising executive drew on his professional resources to celebrate his daughter's coming of age by placing her smiling face on a billboard on the side of a busy highway. So Robyn Cohen's face — sporting a four-foot smile — peeks down on as many as 100,000 commuters each day, next to an inscription wishing her all the best. Barry Cohen — Robyn's father — had celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary in August the same way, creating a billboard declaring his love for his wife.

## Arab League ch

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab League Secretary-General Amr Abdul Meguid arrived here Saturday for talks with the Jordanian government on Arab League issues. The visit is part of a tour of Arab League offices in the Middle East. Mr. Abdul Meguid is expected to be received by H.E. Amr Abdul Meguid, Secretary-General of the Arab League, and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Abu Asad, and to discuss various topics for discussion and inter-Arab differences and to give a new impetus to the Arab League's peace process. Mr. Abdul Meguid has fully paid its dues to the organization. Other members have not, according to Arab diplomats.

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## Secret talks fa

Israeli premier m

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Secretary of Defense Moshe Arens met in the early hours of Sunday and discussed the peace process. Mr. Rabin said the financial status of the peace process is not a problem. He said the financial status of the peace process is not a problem. He said the financial status of the peace process is not a problem.

At the urging of U.S. mediator Dennis Ross, the two leaders met in a post-midnight session at the Ezer crossing linking Israel and the autonomous Gaza Strip. They talked for four and one-half hours until dawn, officials close to the negotiations said.

The meeting took place and progress was made," said David Bar Ilan, a top adviser to Mr. Netanyahu.

There were expectations that an agreement could be signed up in 24 to 48 hours, but Israeli officials were cautious, noting that there had been many reports of pending agreement in the past three months.

The key issue, apparently still unresolved despite a new U.S. formula, was the Palestinian demand for a timetable for three further Israeli withdrawals from rural areas of the West Bank.

Arabs vow war on terrorism

TUNIS (AFP) — Interior ministers from the 22-member Arab League vowed Sunday to battle terrorism together as they wound up their 14th annual conference here Sunday.

The ministers issued an official statement at the end of the two-day meeting, promising a "common strategy to fight terrorism, and to set up a solid base of efficient cooperation" between Arab states to battle the purveyors of violence.

The agreement aims to increase cooperation between Arab states in the fight against terrorism, in particular violence linked to Islamic militancy which effects several Arab countries to a lesser or greater extent.

Most Arab countries were represented by ministers at the meeting, which covered some 15 agenda items of international interest including inter-Arab cooperation programmes on the fight against organised crime and drug-trafficking.

The secretary-general of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers said some 60,000 people were killed in the last five years in terrorism-related attacks in the Arab World, the overwhelming majority of them in Algeria.

"The majority were simply Arab citizens who were victims" of these attacks, which also caused damage estimated at billions of dollars, Ahmad Salem said in a report submitted to the council.

He said according to Western estimates, clashes between extremists and security forces in Algeria, as well as attacks blamed on the extremists, have left at least 50,000 dead in the last five years.